THE

Board of Trade Journal.

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The Offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. — registered telegraphic address, "Advantage, London;" Code, 5th Edition A.B.C.; telephone number, 12807 Central. A statement of the objects and work of the Branch will be found on p. 599.

Attention is directed to the Sample Room at the above address, the latest additions to which are the following:—

Samples.	Reference in "Board of Trade Journal." Date.	Page.
Blanket required by Norwegian Naval Authorities ...	25th Mar., 1909	556
Cloth, stated to be of Austrian make, sold at Monastir ...	18th " "	510
Court Plaster (German) and Paper (Dutch), both bearing British Royal Arms, sold in Spain	25th Feb., "	371
Woollen Blanket required by Egyptian Prisons Department	" " "	358
Standard Fair Average Quality Western Australian Wheat of 1908-9	" " "	389
"Vegetable" Asbestos produced in Chungking	24th Dec., 1908	620
Silk from Wild Cocoons in Manchuria	17th " "	574
"Machetes" sold in Panama	" " "	546
Cardigan Jackets and "Shal" sold at Diarbekir	10th " "	494
Rice and Cotton from Bolivia	12th Nov. "	333
Cotton Goods sold in Turkey	29th Oct. "	204
Bean Oil from Japan	22nd " "	184
Filasse produced from Ramie fibre	15th " "	129
Copper Ore from Trebizond	" " "	128
Natal grown Maize	" " "	130

*** Particulars are given on p. 598 respecting the Register of British firms who may desire to receive **Confidential Information** relative to their respective trades.

Trade Enquiry Offices have been established at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., by the Governments of the Dominion of Canada and Queensland. Statements of the objects and work of these offices, and of other Colonial Trade Enquiry Offices, will be found on pp. 599-600.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

Switches and Crossings, Workshop Machines, Soft Coke.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply (1) switches and crossings; (2) workshop machines; (3) soft coke. The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, White-

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

hall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that office by 2 p.m. on the 30th March, 1909, for No. 1, and on the 6th April, 1909, for Nos. 2 and 3, after which times, respectively, no tender will be received.

Copies of the conditions may be seen by British firms on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Bridgework, Railway Material and Stores.

The Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of special cranked fish-plates, steel and iron work for bridges, Yorkshire iron, plate and sheet glass, white lead, linoleum, galvanised wrought iron water tubes, brass and iron screws and split pins. Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C., on payment of the fee for the specification, which payment will not be returned. Tenders must be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the secretary, marked "Tender for special cranked fish-plates," or as the case may be, not later than 11 a.m. on the 1st April. The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

CANADA.

Commercial Enquiries.

The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Offices of the High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained:—

HOME ENQUIRIES.

A Lancashire firm wish to secure the representation of Canadian exporters of **timber and other building materials.**

Enquiry has been made by a London firm for the names of likely Canadian buyers of English **hardware, chemicals, mill stores, tinplates, turned sheets, iron and steel material, bricks, &c.** The firm are prepared to appoint agents.

A Nottingham firm wish to appoint an agent in Canada for the sale of **cotton laces and embroideries.**

A Scottish firm manufacturing **wood turning machines**, and making a speciality of a **bobbin turning machine** used chiefly for thread bobbins and spools, wish to open up business in Canada.

A Yorkshire firm wish to appoint an agent in Canada for the sale of **fingerings, Berlin wools**, and **mending cards.**

A North of England firm wish to get into touch with Canadian importers of **seeds, bulbs, &c.**

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—*continued.*

A firm of tanners and leather dressers in Yorkshire manufacturing all classes of **leather** for carriage and furniture upholstery, bookbinding, and fancy trade (purses, pocket wallets, &c.), wish to open up business in Canada.

A Lancashire firm manufacturing **folding and cutting machinery for printers** wish to open up business in Canada.

A London firm wish to appoint an agent in Winnipeg for the sale of **Bradford linings and silks** for tailors and clothiers.

A correspondent in London has asked to be placed in touch with **Canadian produce exporters** desiring representation in Great Britain.

An English firm with a house in Spain are desirous of shipping **Spanish grapes** to Canada, and would like to be placed in touch with reliable buyers.

CANADIAN ENQUIRIES.

A firm in New Brunswick have asked to be placed in touch with purchasers in Great Britain of **Molybdenite ore.**

A manufacturer's agent in Toronto, dealing with the wholesale trade, desires to represent British makers of **woollen and worsted cloths, tailors' trimmings, linens, hosiery, underwear, dress goods, linings, &c.**

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

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The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained :—

HOME ENQUIRIES.

A firm of manufacturing jewellers would like to get into touch with Canadian houses prepared to take up the sale of **jewellery** of all kinds, such as **gold, silver and diamonds, brooches, cigarette cases, stick tops,** &c., also **silver mounted hunting crops** and **driving whips.**

A London firm of timber merchants are in the market for supplies of **match splints**, made to specification, and would be glad to receive quotations from Canadian manufacturers of these goods.

CANADIAN ENQUIRIES.

A British Columbia firm of wholesale grocers are prepared to act for United Kingdom manufacturers of **groceries and grocers' sundries.**

A Toronto manufacturers' agent reports an opening for the following lines of textiles, viz. :—**panamas suitable for ladies' coats and skirts, fancy serges, white repp, and Indian head**, and would be pleased to hear from United Kingdom manufacturers seeking

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—*continued.*

representation in the Dominion. Samples can be inspected at the Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Bridge Construction.

According to a report by the United States Consul at Kingston (Ontario), it is proposed to remove the existing wooden bridge crossing the Rideau river opposite the Tête de Pont Barracks and connecting with the Royal Military College at Kingston, and to erect a modern steel bridge about one-third of a mile in length across the Rideau river at Belles Island, lying half a mile further up the stream.

Steel Rolling Plant.

H.M. Trade Commissioner in Canada (Mr. R. Grigg) has forwarded an extract from the Toronto "Mail and Empire" to the effect that the first step towards the extension of the Dominion Iron and Steel plant at Sydney (Nova Scotia) has been taken, it being decided to erect a large merchant mill which will enable the company to manufacture considerably more rolled steel. Other extensions are under consideration.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Letter-box Fronts.

The Representative of the Commonwealth of Australia in London (Captain R. Muirhead Collins, C.M.G.) notifies that he has received tender forms, specifications, &c., in connection with the supply and delivery of letter-box fronts, with locks and keys complete, required by the Postmaster-General's Department, tenders for which will be received at the office of the Deputy Postmaster-General, Melbourne, until 3 p.m. on the 18th May.

Tender forms, specifications, &c., may be obtained at the Commonwealth Offices in London, 72, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., where also preliminary deposits may be paid. A copy of the conditions may be seen by British manufacturers interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Commercial Enquiries.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the Commonwealth of Australia Offices in London, 72, Victoria Street, S.W., whence further information regarding them may be obtained :—

A gentleman, having considerable experience of mining operations in Australia and at present in this country, is prepared to

undertake agencies in the Commonwealth for **mining and metallurgical machinery and plant.** Highest references are said to be offered.

The principal of a firm of manufacturers' agents in Australia, at present in England, desires to represent British manufacturers, especially in the following articles:—**canvas, tarpaulin, white felt, cotton duck, English harness, collar checks, meat cloth, rubber and fibre mats, insulator papers, &c., carpets, curtains and blinds, hessian and jute goods, denims.**

NOTE.—For further information regarding the above, application should be made to the Offices of the Commonwealth of Australia, 72, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

NATAL.

Commercial Enquiries.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the offices of the Commercial Agent for Natal in London:—

A 1.—A producer and manufacturers' agent in Durban is desirous of extending his business to English firms who may require an **agent for Natal produce.** He is stated to be fully acquainted with all branches of the business, shipping, finance, &c., and to have an extensive list of clients on the coast who are anxious to ship mealies, &c., abroad.

A 2.—A correspondent near Maritzburg, who is interested in iron and copper production, wishes to get into touch with firms in Great Britain for the purpose of further exploiting his **iron and copper works,** which are now lying idle for want of capital. Details on application.

A 3.—A Durban manufacturer desires to get into touch with British firms who may be in a position to supply plant for any of the following processes, viz.:—(*a*) **Manufacture of China soy,** (*b*) **Manufacture of vinegar from saccharine solutions,** (*c*) **Decolorization of cane juice or cane treacles**—simple process required, (*d*) **Commercial preparation of ginger-root,** (1) bleaching, and (2) pressing, (*e*) **Preparation of turmeric,** (*f*) **Preparation of candied peel by vacuum pan,** (*g*) **Fermentation process of chicory manufacture,** (*h*) **Preparation of tapioca from manihot.**

Note.—All enquiries in connection with the above should be addressed to the Editor of the "Agricultural Journal," Pietermaritzburg, Natal, quoting the letter and number stated.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

Coal.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade have received from the Colonial Secretary at Lagos copies of a notice calling for tenders, which will be received up to noon on 12th May, 1909, for the supply to the Government of Southern Nigeria of not less than

Openings for British Trade.

21,000 tons of best quality double screened South Wales steam coal (Admiralty standard) for the period from 1st July, 1909, to 30th June, 1910.

Alternative tenders for the supply of from 21,000 to 27,000 tons of coal yearly, for from three to five years, will also be considered.

A copy of the notice inviting tenders, with particulars of the coal required and places of delivery, may be seen by British firms at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., or at the offices of the various Chambers of Commerce in South Wales.

EGYPT.

Sewage Works.

Copies of the general and special conditions of tender for the sewage works, tenders for which are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works and will be received in Cairo up to the 1st June (*see* "Board of Trade Journal" of 11th March, p. 453), have been received from H.M. Consul at Cairo (Mr. A. D. Alban), and may be consulted by British contractors interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Cotton Sheets, Shoes, Waterproof Coats, Serge, Chevrons and Badges.

The London Agent for the Egyptian War Office (Lieut.-Col. J. H. Western, C.M.G.) notifies that the Department are calling for tenders for the supply of—(1) cotton sheets, gymnastic shoes, waterproof coats, and khaki serge; and (2) chevrons and badges. All particulars may be obtained from Lieut.-Col. Western, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., to whom tenders are to be sent by the 30th April, to remain open for thirty days after that date.

Windmill and Oil Engine Pumping Installations.

The "Journal Officiel" of 8th March publishes a notice, issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, to the effect that tenders in sealed envelopes will be received by the Director of Stores, Coast Guard Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, up to noon on 13th April, for supplying and fixing a windmill installation and an oil engine pumping installation at Sidi Barani.

Specification and conditions of contract can be seen at the Head Quarters of the Coast Guard Administration, Bab El Louk, Cairo, and also at the office of the Director of Stores, Arsenal, Alexandria.

Building Materials, Sanitary Fittings, &c.

The "Journal Officiel" of 10th March contains a notice, issued by the Ministry of the Interior, to the effect that tenders will be received at the Central Administration, Department of Public Health, Cairo, up to 11 a.m. on 10th April, for the supply of building materials, sanitary fittings, wood, oils,

Openings for British Trade.

paints, &c., necessary for the Engineering Section of the Department of Public Health, for one year from 1st May, 1909.

Forms of tender and all other information may be obtained on application to the Chief Engineer, Department of Public Health, Cairo.

Each tender must be accompanied by a declaration from a bank or Government Treasury to the effect that it holds at the disposal of the Department of Public Health a sum of £.E. 20 as a guarantee for supplying these materials.

Offers should be made on the proper forms, accompanied by a stamped paper of 30-millièmes (obtainable from Lieut.-Col. Western, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.), and the prices must be shown in Egyptian pounds and millièmes against each article in the forms referred to.

Tenders should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the Director-General, Department of Public Health, Cairo, bearing the inscription: "Tender for the supply of Sundry Materials to the Engineering Department."

SWEDEN.

Commercial Enquiries.

The March "Journal" of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in London publishes the following commercial enquiries:—

A Stockholm company wish to obtain names of British exporters of **mica** in whole sheets. (Ref. No. A/30/09.)

Names of British manufacturers of **shellac** for isolating purposes are desired by a Stockholm company. (Ref. No. A/32/09.)

Names of British exporters of **slate** are desired by a Stockholm firm. (Ref. No. A/31/09.)

A firm of importers at Stockholm (contractors to the Swedish navy) wish to get into touch with British exporters of first quality **tallow**, hard, white, and free from oxygen, packed in casks holding 100 kilogs. (Ref. No. A/28/09.)

Note.—Communications in connection with these enquiries should be addressed to the Swedish Chamber of Commerce, 134, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

NORWAY.

Tar Oil, Tarpaulins and Hemp Cloth, Buffer Discs and Mild Steel Plates.

H.M. Consul at Christiania (Mr. F. E. Drummond Hay, M.V.O.) reports that tenders* are invited by the Norwegian State Railways for the supply of (1) 2,000 barrels of tar oil ("Tjäre Olie"); (2) 416 tarpaulins and 1,920 metres of hemp cloth; and

* It should be noted that in all Norwegian Government contracts a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. (apart from Customs duties) is given to Norwegian manufacturers, and that it is obligatory that a resident agent (not necessarily a Norwegian firm) should act for tenderers not residing in Norway.

Openings for British Trade.

NORWAY—*continued.*

(3) 50 flat buffer discs, 16 mm. thick and 430 mm. in diameter.
50 arched „ 16 mm. „ 430 mm. „
300 flat „ 16 mm. „ 368 mm. „
300 arched „ 16 mm. „ 368 mm. „
2 mild steel plates, 1 mm. by 2 mm. by 19 mm.
15 „ „ 1 mm. by 2 mm. by 8 mm.
30 „ „ 1 mm. by 2 mm. by No. 16 B.W.G.
20 „ „ 8 in. by $\frac{3}{8}$ in. by 10 ft. (English measure).
20 „ „ 10 in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 14 ft. „

Tenders for (1) should be marked "Anbud paa leverance af Tjäre Olie," and delivered to "Statsbanernes 1st Districkts Baneavdeling, Christiania," by noon on the 10th April; tenders for (2) should be marked "Presenninger," and delivered to "Styrelsens Expeditionskontor, Christiana," by 3 p.m. on the 16th April; tenders for (3) should be marked "Anbud paa leverance af bufferskiver," or as the case may be, and delivered at "Maskiningeniorens kontor, Bispegaten 12, Christiania," before 3 p.m. on 31st March.

Copies of the specifications and conditions of tender (in Norwegian) may be seen by British traders on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London. E.C.

Blankets.

H.M. Consul also reports that tenders are invited by the Norwegian Naval Authorities for the supply of 1,000 blankets, 400 to be of double length (400 cm.), and the remainder of single length (195/200 cm.).

Tenders addressed to "Marinens Intendantur, Horten," will be received up to 1 p.m. on the 15th April. Small cuttings showing the quality of blankets required, together with specifications and conditions of tender, &c. (in Norwegian) may be seen by British makers on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

DENMARK.

Galvanised Iron Plates and Nails.

H.M. Consul at Copenhagen (Mr. L. C. Liddell) reports that tenders are invited up to 5 p.m. on the 30th March by the Svendborg Harbour Board for the supply of:—(1) 7,200 square feet (Danish measure) galvanised iron plate B. W. G. No. 20; (2) 11,400 square feet (Danish measure) galvanised iron plate B. W. G. No. 19; (3) 101,000 2 in. wrought nails, galvanised; (4) 6,000 6 in. galvanised wire nails; (5) 3,000 5 in. galvanised wire nails.

Tenders should be addressed in sealed envelopes to "Havneudvalget, Stads og Havne Ingeniorens Kontor, Svendborg, Denmark.

Openings for British Trade.

DENMARK—*continued.*

Copies of the conditions of tender and specifications (in Danish) may be seen by British makers on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Locomotives.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of 20th March notifies, on the authority of the Belgian Legation at Copenhagen, that as a result of the discussion of the Public Works Budget, the Danish State Railways will have to arrange for the ordering of 31 new locomotives, which will entail an expenditure of 2,120,600 crowns (about 117,800*l.*). It should be borne in mind, reports the "Bulletin," that tenders are not publicly invited for the supply of rolling stock, and that the Danish Government address themselves to well-known makers. The importance of this is obvious when it is considered that the whole of the Danish railways require annually about 70 new locomotives.

NETHERLANDS.

Electric and Steam Tramway Plants.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of 20th March announces, on the authority of the Belgian Legation at The Hague, that the Netherlands Government have just brought forward a Bill, whereby the State shall provide a credit of 132,400 florins (about 11,000*l.*) without payment of interest, for the construction and working of a steam tramway from Brouwershaven to Burgh. This sum represents one-third of the expense estimated to be required to carry out the undertaking.

The same "Bulletin" refers to the Dutch "Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant," which announces that a company has been formed at Hengelo for the establishment and working of an electric tramway between Velperpont and Hengelo, a most important line about 45 miles in length.

Gas Works Plant.

The "Bulletin" also cites the "Vaderland" to the effect that the Communal Council of Oldenzaal (Overijssel) have adopted the plans of the engineer Coenraedts, of Rotterdam, for the construction of a gas works in the Oldenzaal district.

Cast Iron Pipes.

The "Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels" (Brussels) of 21st March announces that the Water Works Committee of the town of Rotterdam invite tenders for the supply of 262,200 kilogrammes of cast iron pipes. Tenders will be opened on the 6th April.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN.

Materials for Water Works, &c.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 15th March publishes a notice, issued by the Gobierno de la Provincia de Canarias, inviting tenders for the carrying out of canalisation and water works in the town of La Laguna de Tenerife. Plans and specifications may be seen at the Corporation offices of La Laguna, and at the Direccion General, Ministerio de la Gobernacion, Madrid. Tenders will be opened simultaneously at 11 a.m. on the 26th April at the said Direccion and at the Salas Consistoriales, La Laguna. The upset price is placed at 185,575 pesetas (7,423*l.*) and a deposit of 9,279 pesetas (371*l.* 5*s.*) will be required to qualify any tender, to be increased by the successful tenderer to 10 per cent. of the accepted contract price.

Local representation is necessary.

The "Gaceta" may be seen by British firms on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Light Railway Construction and Plant.

An article in the March issue of the "Report" of the British Chamber of Commerce for Spain states that, although the law authorising the Spanish Government to concede subventions with a view to facilitating the construction of light railways in Spain and the Canary Islands received the Royal sanction so long ago as March of last year (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 21st April, 1908, p. 192), it appears to have attracted but little notice in British circles. The subvention takes the form of a guarantee of interest on the capital expended on construction, the guaranteed interest not to exceed 5 per cent. per annum, and to be repayable out of surplus profits. Subventions may be conceded to any lines which, in the opinion of the Government, are of public utility. The construction of several of the lines has already been taken in hand, French capital chiefly being interested. The article states that there is no doubt that others of the projected railways present prospects of a good return apart from the advantage of the Government guarantee, and suggests that the matter might be worth the attention of British capitalists.

A list of the railways which, at the time of the passing of the law, were declared to be of public utility, is appended to the article referred to, and may be seen by British traders interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

ITALY.

Electric Lamps.

With reference to the notice on p. 410 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 4th March relative to a call for tenders for the supply of electric lamps, &c., to the Italian Royal Arsenals, H.M. Consul at

Openings for British Trade.

ITALY—*continued.*

Rome (Mr. C. C. Morgan) reports that the Italian Ministry of Marine have postponed the date fixed for the receipt of tenders.

Further particulars may be obtained on application (preferably in Italian or French) to "Sua Eccellenza il Ministro della Marina, Via dei Portoghesi," Rome.

Building Material, &c.

H.M. Consul at Milan (Mr. J. H. Towsey) reports that the Co-operative Society for Public Works in Lombardy, of 8 Via Lupetta, Milan, in conjunction with the Milan College of Engineers and Architects, who recently opened a public competition for plans for earthquake-proof buildings (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 25th February, p. 364, and 4th March, pp. 409–10), are engaged in forming a company, to be called the "Società Nazionale," for building houses, with a capital of 20,000,000 lire (about 800,000*l.*) and operations are to be begun when 5,000,000 lire (about 200,000*l.*) have been subscribed. Besides this project, there is another by the Co-operative Societies of Milan, Reggio-Emilia, Rome, Ferrara, and Ravenna ("Società Umanitario," 11 Via Manzoni, Milan) to form a "consortium" of co-operative societies with an initial capital of 500,000 lire (about 20,000*l.*), to be raised to 1,000,000 lire (about 40,000*l.*), for undertaking public works, especially in Calabria and Sicily. Moreover, the Pro-Calabria and Sicilia Committee at the Municipality of Milan have voted 500,000 lire (about 20,000*l.*) towards the cost of re-building one of the quarters of Messina.

Railway Plant.

Referring to the notice in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 4th March, p. 411, on the subject of the Asti-Chivasso railway, the "Bollettino Finanze, Ferrovie, Industrie" (Rome) of 14th March announces that tenders are now invited for the construction of the line in question. Tenders will be opened on the 9th April at the Ministero dei Lavori Pubblici, Rome. The total length of line will be over 31 miles, and the cost of construction is estimated at 15,800,000 lire (632,000*l.*).

The ultimate award in respect of this competition will no doubt involve the purchase of a substantial quantity of steel rails and other permanent way accessories, which may, perhaps, have to be obtained wholly or in part out of Italy.

Railway Plant.

The "Bollettino" of 18th March notifies that the General Directorate of the Italian State Railways have submitted to the Superior Council of Public Works plans for the construction of the lines in Basilicata (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 4th February, p. 224). The system, which will comprise altogether about 284

Openings for British Trade.

ITALY—*continued.*

miles, will include the following sections: Grumo to Altamura, Matera, Ferrandina, Pisticci, Guardia Perticaria, San Martino d'Agri, and Atena; Albano di Lucania to Guardia Perticara; San Martino d'Agri to Nova Siri; and Gravina to Valle del Bradano, Acerenza and Arigliano.

Motor Vehicles.

The same "Bollettino" announces that a project has been submitted to the municipal authorities of Frosinone relative to the establishment of a motor car service to Piperno and Sora.

ITALIAN SOMALILAND.

Railway Plant.

The "Bollettino Finanze, Ferrovie, Industrie" (Rome) of 18th March announces that survey operations are proceeding in Benadir in connection with the short railway Afgoi to Mogadiscio, a distance of nearly 25 miles. The plans are being prepared by the Italian State Railways.

Motor Vehicles.

The "Bollettino" further reports that the Government are drawing up plans for the organization of means of communication in the interior. As a matter of fact a project is at present on foot for establishing an automobile service between Giumbe and Mogadiscio in order to connect the capital with the future centre of the whole agricultural movement of the Colony.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Materials for Water Supply, &c.

According to the "Zentral Anzeiger," of the 18th March, the authorities of the town of Beszterce (Hungary) intend to arrange this year for the installation of a drinking water system (high source) and canalisation works (spül system). According to the plans drawn up by Messrs. Becsey and Tholt, of Budapest, the cost of the above work will amount to 1,300,000 kronen (54,167*l.*).

Also, the town authorities of Miskole (Hungary) are making provision this year for a canalisation and drinking water system, which, it is estimated, will involve an expenditure of 3,000,000 kronen (125,000*l.*).

Textile Machinery.

The same "Anzeiger" states that Messrs. Taussig & Sons of Györ (Hungary) are arranging to erect, with a capital of 1,500,000 kronen (62,500*l.*) a factory for the manufacture of linen goods.

Also, the Hungarian Hemp and Flax Weaving Company intend to erect a hemp factory in Szekszard (Hungary). The capital will amount to 700,000 kronen (29,167*l.*)

Further, that Rudolf Zerkovitz, the manager of the Hegyaljaer Motorbahn Gesellschaft has, on behalf of a group of French financiers, commenced negotiations with the Burgomaster of the town of Arad in regard to the erection of a silk factory in that town.

TURKEY.

H.M. Consul-General at Smyrna (Mr. H. D. Barnham, C.M.G.) has forwarded the following memorandum on the subject of the fez market in Turkey :—

Fezzes.

"To a certain extent fezzes have been replaced by other kinds of headgear, but these are fast disappearing. The two (brimless and peakless) caps most worn instead of fezzes are :—(1) Astrachan caps worn by the well-to-do classes—these caps are considered too warm for summer use; (2) Grey and white felt caps—these are of Turkish manufacture and are much worn by the poorer classes, but the question of their durability as compared with fezzes is doubtful. In the meantime the fez is steadily regaining its old position, and as the other caps wear out one by one they are being replaced by the popular fez.

"The fez is of some elastic texture and easily takes the shape of the head. Wearers do not find the same comfort in substitutes. Fezzes have come hitherto almost exclusively from Austria, where there are some six or seven factories that have an output of over a million fezzes a year; the turnover is reckoned at about a million kronen (about 42,000*l.*) annually. There is a Vienna syndicate which controls the prices, 2*s.* 1*d.* being about the average retail price at which fezzes may be bought in Turkey. The prices of the various qualities of Austrian fezzes actually vary from 3½ to 14 piastres (7*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*).

"It may fairly be estimated that every male Turk uses 1½ fezzes a year. This would mean 3 to 4 fezzes when speaking of the better classes.

"The greatest distributing centre in Turkey is Constantinople. In Smyrna 90 per cent. of the fezzes come from Vienna, while Germany sends some cheaper kinds, as well as brass moulds or blocks on which fezzes are pressed.

"A fez factory was started some time ago in Constantinople, and another is to be built in Beirut (Syria), but the output of the Turkish article in Constantinople (200 a day) is not likely to satisfy the demands of the market for a long time to come. Despite the freedom from import duty, the two qualities supplied fetch 12 and 14 piastres (2*s.* and 2*s.* 4*d.*).

Openings for British Trade.

"It is said that, even in Austria, only 40 per cent. of the fezzes turned out are faultless. The faulty ones fetch about half the price. At Constantinople, where the manufacture of fezzes is more recent, this state of perfection has not yet been attained, and the percentage of faulty ones is greater.

"The wholesale prices at Smyrna are from 5*s.* 6*d.* to 20*s.* a dozen, according to quality, but without tassels.

"The importing houses belong principally to Mohammedan Turks, *i.e.*, not Greek or Armenian Ottoman subjects.

"British firms contemplating entering this branch of trade would be well advised to obtain samples."

MEXICO.

Electric Power Plant.

It appears from a notice in the "Mexican Herald" of 28th February that some Canadian capitalists intend to erect an electric power plant on the Rio Conchas, a short distance from the town of Parral, at a cost of 5,000,000 dollars gold (about 500,000*l.*). The initial capacity of the proposed plant will be about 15,000 h.p., and the power generated will be used for mining and irrigation purposes.

Machinery, Tools, &c.

See notice on p. 583 relative to the prolongation of the law for the encouragement of industry.

COLOMBIA.

Motor Cars and Accessories.

The "Diario Oficial" (Bogotá) of 30th January publishes a notice, issued by the Minister of Public Works, of a contract entered into with Messrs. Pablo Forero and Julio Acosta, under the terms of which the latter engage to carry out, for a period of five years as from the 20th July, 1909, a passenger and goods motor car service between Bogotá or Nemocón and Sogamoso or Santa Rosa de Viterbo. Whilst the service shall be maintained to the satisfaction of the Government, there must in no case be fewer than four vehicles on the road. No import duties will be levied on the importation of motor cars and accessories required for this service during the terms of the contract. The contractors will receive from the Government an annual subsidy of 3,000 pesos (about 600*l.*) for five years.

VENEZUELA.

Water Works.

According to the "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of 20th March, the Belgian Representative at Caracas has forwarded particulars of a resolution of the Venezuelan Minister of Public Works relative to the plans connected with the laying of water pipes for the purpose of bringing water from Macuro to Caracas.

Openings for British Trade.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Steel Rails, &c.

H.M. Legation at Buenos Aires are informed by the Argentine Public Works Department that the date for the receipt of tenders for the supply of steel rails, &c., required by the Directorate of Ways of Communication (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 11th March, p. 461), has been altered from 2 p.m. on the 28th March to the same hour on the 29th March.

Specification and plans may be inspected by British makers on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Port Works and Channel Construction.

With reference to the notice on p. 413 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 4th March, the Argentine "Boletin Oficial" of 12th February publishes a decree authorising the invitation of tenders for (1) the extension of the Port of Buenos Aires, and (2) the construction of a channel for ocean-going steamers between Buenos Aires and the River Paraná de Las Palmas by way of the River Lujun.

Tenders, addressed to the "Subsecretaria del Ministerio de Obras Publicas de la Nacion, Buenos Aires," will be received up to 2 p.m. on the 1st September next.

The estimated cost of these works is 25,000,000 pesos gold (5,000,000*l.*) in the case of (1), and 10,000,000 pesos gold (2,000,000*l.*) in the case of (2).

Plans and specifications may be inspected at the Directorate General of Hydraulic Works of the Department of Public Works, Government House, Buenos Aires.

The "Boletin," containing further information, may be seen by British contractors on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Railway Plant.

The "Boletin" of 17th February publishes a notice, issued by the Ministerio de Obras Publicas, of a contract entered into by the State with the Empresa del Ferrocarril del Sud (Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway Company, Limited), for the construction of a branch line from the Rio Colorado station to the Puerto de San Antonio, in virtue of the concession granted by Law No. 6018.

SIAM.

Machinery and Plant for Dry Dock and Engineering Work.

According to the "Straits Budget" of 25th February, the prospectus and memorandum of the Samsen Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. (Siamese), is now issued. The share capital is 175,000 ticals (about 13,100*l.*). The company will carry on a general dock and engineering business as dock owners, launch, boat and engine builders, electrical engineers, bridge builders, constructional iron and steel workers, suppliers of mill and engineering stores, and contractors for general repairs and other work.

Openings for British Trade.

CHINA.

Harbour Works: Railway Plant.

According to the "Overland China Mail" of 16th February, it is reported that China will shortly undertake the construction of harbour works at the ice-free port of Liensbanwan, under the superintendence of a British engineer. A branch line connecting the port with the Imperial Railways of North China will also be constructed for a distance of three miles.

JAPAN.

Glass suitable for Making Dry Plates.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of 20th March states, on the authority of the Belgian Consul at Yokohama, that the fact that the Japanese have themselves begun to manufacture dry plates for photography is sure to create a demand for a special quality of glass, and that manufacturers would do well to watch developments.

EXHIBITIONS.

RUSSIA.

International Exhibition at Kazan.

With reference to the notices on p. 414 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 4th March, and on p. 370 of the issue of 25th February, relative to the forthcoming exhibition at Kazan, the Board of Trade are notified by the London Chamber of Commerce that a considerable amount of information on the question of the cost and means of transport, length of time necessary to deliver goods in Kazan, &c., has been received at the Chamber, to whom enquiries on these subjects should therefore be addressed by British firms interested. The offices of the Chamber are at Oxford Court, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

NORWAY.

International Automobile Exhibition.

H.M. Consul at Christiania (Mr. F. E. Drummond-Hay, M.V.O.) reports that an automobile exhibition is to be held at that city from the 20th to the 26th May next under the auspices of the Norsk Automobilklub. The exhibition will be held at the Gymnasium, Fästningen, Christiania: it will occupy an area of 800 square metres, and will include:—(1) Automobiles with accessories; (2) Outfits for automobile racing; (3) Maps of interest to automobile travellers in Norway, and photographs of automobile routes.

The Consul adds that this exhibition, though international, will be on quite a small scale.

A few copies of the regulations with form of application for space, forwarded by the Consul, may be obtained by British firms interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

ROYAL COMMISSION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS AT BRUSSELS, ROME, AND TURIN.

H.M. the King has been pleased to appoint a Royal Commission, of which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is President, and Lord Lytton and Sir Swire Smith respectively Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to assist the Board of Trade in the organisation of exhibits, illustrative of British Arts, Industry, and Agriculture, at the forthcoming International Exhibitions at Brussels in 1910, and at Rome and Turin in 1911.

The following is a complete list of the members appointed to serve on the Commission :—

PRESIDENT.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., K.T., K.P., &c., &c.

CHAIRMAN.

The Earl of Lytton.

VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Sir Swire Smith, President of the Keighley Chamber of Commerce.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Stalbridge, representing the Railway Companies' Association.

Lord Brassey, G.C.B., President of the Association of Chambers of Commerce.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Pirrie, K.P.

The Rt. Hon. Sir James Rennell Rodd, G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., C.B., Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the King of Italy.

Sir Edward John Poynter, Bart., President of the Royal Academy.

Sir Albert Spicer, Bart., M.P., President of the London Chamber of Commerce and Member of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence.

Sir William Henry Holland, Bart., M.P., Member of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence.

Sir Arthur Henry Hardinge, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to his Majesty the King of the Belgians.

Sir William Henry White, K.C.B., F.R.S.

Captain Sir William de Wiveleslie Abney, K.C.B., R.E , F.R.S.

Sir Thomas Henry Elliott, K.C.B., representing the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Sir James Thomson, K.C.S.I., representing the Office of the Principal Secretary of State for India.

Sir Alfred Edmund Bateman, K.C.M.G., representing the Board of Trade.

Sir Henry Seymour King, K.C.I.E., M.P.

Sir Albert Kaye Rollit, Member of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence.

Royal Commission for the International Exhibitions at Brussels, Rome, and Turin.

Sir Thomas Drew, President of the Royal Hibernian Academy of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture.

Sir William Mather.

Sir Edward William Fithian, Secretary of the Association of Chambers of Commerce.

Sir Boverton Redwood, F.R.S.E.

Sir Isidore Spielmann, C.M.G., Hon. Director for Art, Exhibitions Branch, Board of Trade.

Sir Edward Cecil Hertslet, His Majesty's Consul-General for Belgium.

Colonel Sir James Buckingham, C.I.E., representing the Indian Tea Association.

Sir George White, M.P.

Sir Robert Abbott Hadfield.

William Algernon Law, Esq., C.B., representing the Office of the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Major Maurice Alexander Cameron, C.M.G., R.E., representing the Office of the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The High Commissioners and Agents General for the time being of any of the self-governing Dominions participating.

Charles Carrick Allom, Esq.

Hippolyte Jean Blanc, Esq., Deputy President of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture.

John Pius Boland, Esq., M.P.

James Boyd, Esq.

Archibald Charles Campbell, Esq., representing the British Chamber of Commerce for Italy.

Thomas Craig-Brown, Esq., Member of the South of Scotland Chamber of Commerce, and of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence.

William John Crossley, Esq., M.P.

Frank Debenham, Esq.

Martin Deed, Esq.

James Dixon, Esq., Chairman of Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping.

Selwyn Francis Edge, Esq., representing the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Herbert Anderton Foster, Esq., Ex-President of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce.

Richard Tetley Glazebrook, Esq., F.R.S., Director of the National Physical Laboratory.

Albert John Hobson, Esq., President of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce.

Guglielmo Marconi, Esq., LL.D., D.Sc.

John McLaren, Esq., representing the Agricultural Engineers' Association.

Royal Commission for the International Exhibitions at Brussels, Rome, and Turin.

Thomas Cartlich Moore, Esq.

Ebenezer Parkes, Esq., M.P., Member of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence.

Louis Coltman Parkes, Esq., M.D., Consulting Sanitary Adviser to the Commissioners of Works and Public Buildings.

Richard Augustine Studdert Redmayne, Esq., Chief Inspector of Mines.

Tom Hurry Riches, Esq., President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

Robert Thompson, Esq., Member of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce and of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence.

Emery Walker, Esq.

Frank Warner, Esq.

H.M. the King has also been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. U. F. Wintour as Commissioner-General for the Exhibitions at Brussels and Turin, and of Sir Isidore Spielmann, C.M.G., as Commissioner-General for the Art Exhibition at Rome.

Mr. U. F. Wintour will also act as Secretary to the Royal Commission.

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

The Exhibition at Brussels in 1910 will mark the inauguration of a new policy on the part of His Majesty's Government with regard to official participation in Foreign International Exhibitions. It has been felt for some time past that British Exhibitors have been at a disadvantage as compared with those of other countries, owing to the absence of any permanent organisation for preparing the British Section at important International Exhibitions. A Committee was consequently appointed by the President of the Board of Trade in 1906, to make enquiries and report as to the nature and extent of the benefit accruing to British Arts, Industries and Trade from the participation of this country in great International Exhibitions, and to advise as to the steps which should be taken to secure the maximum advantage from any public money which might be expended on this object.

As a result of the recommendations contained in the Committee's Report a special Branch of the Commercial, Labour and Statistical Department of the Board of Trade was recently established to deal with all matters relating to the participation of Great Britain in foreign International Exhibitions, and active preparations are now being made for the organisation of a comprehensive display of British arts and manufactures at the three Exhibitions in question. Arrangements have already been concluded with the Exhibition Authorities at Brussels, Rome, and Turin, by which an advantageous

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site has been secured for the British Section at each of these Exhibitions. The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have expressed their willingness to ask the sanction of Parliament to a grant in aid of the cost of organising the exhibits, and the principal Railway and Steamship Companies have notified their willingness to assist in promoting the success of the British Sections by according substantial reductions on their usual rates of freight for the return of unsold exhibits at the close of the respective Exhibitions.

From reports which have been received through the Foreign Office from His Majesty's Consular Officers in Belgium and Italy, it is thought that the Exhibitions at Brussels and Turin will afford a valuable opportunity of promoting and extending British trade with those countries. In view of the important scale on which other nations are preparing to participate, it is hoped that every effort will be made by manufacturers in the United Kingdom to furnish a display of exhibits which will worthily maintain the reputation of Great Britain as a manufacturing country.

The Brussels Exhibition, which will include sections devoted to art, science, industry, and agriculture, is to open in April, 1910, and will continue for a period of about six months. The grounds, which cover an area of approximately 200 acres, are situated in the new quarter of the Avenue Louise, adjoining the Bois de la Cambre, at a distance of about 3 miles from the Gare du Midi, and about 3¾ miles from the Gare du Nord. They are divided roughly by the Avenue Solbosch into two sections, of which the greater part on the south side, adjoining the main entrance, has been reserved for the British and Belgian sections, while that on the north side will be occupied by the exhibits of France, Germany, Italy, Holland, and other foreign nations.

The space allotted to Great Britain amounts in all to 203,140 square feet, of which 150,640 square feet are situated in an imposing building immediately adjoining the main entrance to the exhibition, and the remainder in a central position in the International Machinery Hall.

The exhibitions at Rome and Turin will open in April, 1911, and continue for a period of about six months. They are being held to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy, and are under the patronage of H.M. the King of Italy, and the Honorary Presidency of H.R.H. the Duke of Aosta. The exhibition at Turin will be devoted to industry and labour, and that at Rome to art and archæology. The site chosen for the Turin exhibition is in the Valentino Park, and covers an area of about 247 acres. A site has been secured for the British section containing 263,718 square feet, in a commanding position on the left bank of the River Po, at an elevation of some 30 feet

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above the level of the river. In addition to the main building, an option has been secured on a further area of some 123,786 square feet, which will afford sites for the pavilions of any of the self-governing dominions or Crown Colonies which may decide to participate.

The first meeting of the Royal Commission, at which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales will preside, will be held at Marlborough House, on Monday, the 5th April, at 3 p.m., and it is hoped that full information with regard to the Brussels exhibition, and the terms upon which exhibits are to be admitted in the British section will be issued within a few days of that date. Similar information relating to the Turin Exhibition will be available in the course of a few weeks.

A list of manufacturers, comprising the names of over 20,000 of the leading firms in the different branches of industry likely to be represented at the Exhibitions, has already been prepared in the Exhibitions Branch of the Board of Trade, and invitations to exhibit will in the first instance be sent direct to these firms. Supplementary lists of firms to whom invitations should be sent are also to be prepared with the advice of the commercial representatives on the Commission, and full information will be supplied to intending Exhibitors after the first meeting of the Commission, upon application to the Director of the Exhibitions Branch of the Board of Trade, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

COPYRIGHT COMMITTEE.

In the list of members of the Copyright Committee recently appointed by the Board of Trade (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 11th March, p. 464) the name of Mr. William Boosey should have been included.

A preliminary meeting of this Committee was held on the 24th March at 2.30 p.m., at the Board of Trade Offices, 7, Whitehall Gardens, S.W., to decide the question of procedure. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 28th April.

THAMES CONSERVANCY.

Under the Port of London Act, 1908, the existing Conservators will cease to hold office as from 31st March next, and a reconstituted Board of 28 members is to be formed to administer the Thames between Cricklade and Teddington. The following is a a list of the Conservators who have been appointed under the Act:—

Thames Conservancy.

Appointing Body.	Name.
The Board of Trade	The Lord Desborough, K.C.V.O. Mr. R. C. Lehmann, M.P.† Mr. Basil Holmes.† Mr. R. N. Tough.‡
The Port of London Authority ...	Mr. J. W. Domoney.
The Metropolitan Water Board...	Mr. E. B. Barnard, M.P. Mr. J. B. P. Karslake.
The London County Council ...	Mr. J. D. Gilbert. Mr. H. J. Greenwood. Mr. S. Sankey.
The Corporation of the City of London	Sir J. T. Ritchie, Bart. Mr. S. W. Morris.
The Gloucestershire and Wiltshire County Councils	Mr. C. E. Hobhouse, M.P.
The Oxfordshire County Council..	Mr. A. Brakspear.
The Berkshire County Council ...	Mr. H. W. Russell.
The Buckinghamshire C. Council	Colonel A. Gilbey.
The Surrey County Council ...	Sir C. Burt.
The Middlesex County Council ...	Mr. James Bigwood.
The Hertfordshire County Council	Rt. Hon. T. F. Halsey.
The Council of the City of Oxford	Sir R. Buckell.
The C. of the Borough of Reading	Mr. C. G. Field.
The Council of the Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames ...	Mr. J. M. R. Francis.
The Councils of the Borough of Windsor and the Urban District of Eton	Sir Wm. Shipley.
The Council of the Borough of Henley-upon-Thames... ...	Mr. W. A. Simmons.
The Councils of the Borough of Maidenhead and the Urban District of Marlow	Mr. D. Bidmead.
The Councils of the Boroughs of Abingdon and Wallingford ...	Mr. E. J. Harris.
The Councils of the Urban Districts of Egham, Staines, Chertsey, Weybridge, Walton, and Sunbury	Mr. G. Grimes.
The Councils of the Urban Districts of East and West Molesey, Esher, and the Dittons, Surbiton, Hampton, Hampton Wick, and Teddington	Dr. P. L. Langdon Down.

† Appointed after consultation with persons and associations concerned in the use of the river as a place of recreation.

‡ Appointed after consultation with persons and associations concerned in the use of the river for the purpose of barge traffic.

TRADE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

The following summary table has been prepared at the Board of Trade, showing the total imports and exports of merchandise of the principal countries for which the particulars can be given up to December, 1908, inclusive, and referring in all cases to the same period, viz., the twelve months ended December. The corresponding figures for 1907 and 1906 are added for comparison:—

—	Imports (*see* NOTE). Twelve Months ended December.			Exports (Domestic) (*see* NOTE). Twelve Months ended December.		
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Germany	394,410,000	430,045,000	409,048,000	312,652,000	336,839,000	332,030,000
Belgium*	128,339,000	141,564,000	134,904,000	102,282,000	108,176,000	103,413,000
France...	225,090,000	248,918,000	243,634,000	210,668,000	223,844,000	210,878,000
Switzerland†	58,762,000	67,497,000	63,497,000	42,845,000	46,118,000	41,537,000
Spain	40,301,000	37,617,000	38,357,000	35,694,000	37,129,000	35,616,000
Italy	100,574,000	115,227,000	121,238,000	76,238,000	77,955,000	74,330,000
Austria-Hungary ...	93,741,000	104,249,000	105,518,000	96,371,000	102,387,000	96,874,000
Egypt	24,636,000	26,801,000	25,754,000	25,525,000	28,742,000	21,871,000
United States... ...	275,105,000	296,494,000	232,594,000	369,316,000	394,866,000	360,139,000
Japan	42,653,000	50,342,000	44,436,000	42,792,000	43,743,000	38,322,000
British India	78,137,000	86,258,000	91,255,000	111,454,000	123,024,000	97,119,000
Canada	64,040,000	75,191,000	58,032,000	49,076,000	48,926,000	50,902,000
British S. Africa† ...	31,639,000	27,483,000	25,263,000	42,396,000	47,596,000	45,210,000
United Kingdom ...	522,786,000	553,866,000	513,475,000	375,575,000	426,035,000	377,220,000

* Value of *principal* articles only. † Including bullion.

A comparison of the total figures for the month ended 31st January is possible for four countries, as follows, viz.:—

—	Imports (*see* NOTE). One Month ended 31st January.			Exports (Domestic) (*see* NOTE). One Month ended 31st January.		
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1907.	1908.	190
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium*	11,615,000	10,229,000	10,745,000	6,963,000	6,419,000	6,682,000
France...	18,173,000	20,403,000	21,387,000	14,977,000	12,747,000	14,372,000
United States ...	26,372,000	17,708,000	21,568,000	39,048,000	42,507,000	32,230,000
United Kingdom ...	51,742,000	49,764,000	46,824,000	35,071,000	34,408,000	28,803,000

* Value of *principal* articles only.

NOTE.—In the case of Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Egypt, Japan, Canada and United Kingdom, the import figures given in the above summaries represent imports for home consumption. In all cases the export figures are intended to represent exports of domestic produce. In most cases, however, they include a certain amount of "nationalised" goods, *i.e.*, goods originally imported for consumption, and which, if dutiable, have been charged with duty, but which are subsequently re-exported.

The latest figures available as regards other countries from which returns are received by the Board of Trade are as follow:—

Trade of Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

—	Imports.			Exports (Domestic).		
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Russia* (10 months)..	53,228,000	59,089,000	63,760,000	89,206,000	91,422,000	83,130,000
Mexico† (11 months)..	22,505,000	23,272,000	16,191,000	24,032,000	24,505,000	20,775,000
Australian Commonwealth† (11 months)	40,773,000	46,756,000	45,115,000	56,735,000	62,050,000	53,423,000

* European, Russo-Finnish and Black Sea Frontiers. † Including bullion and specie.

For detailed particulars regarding the trade of the several countries, reference should be made to the "Accounts relating to the Trade and Commerce of certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions, including figures received up to 28th February," to be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

GERMAN CEMENT TRADE IN 1908.

H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg (Sir W. Ward, C.V.O.) has forwarded, under date of 9th March. the following memorandum on the German cement trade in 1908, which has been drawn up from information supplied by a leading Hamburg firm engaged in the trade :—

"The expectations of the cement industry in Germany formed at the commencement of 1908 were not fully realised, for the results of the financial crisis were everywhere observable, especially in the larger towns. There was a serious falling off in the building trade, particularly in the building of cheap houses, and the owners of factories which were not fully occupied showed little inclination to alter or extend their buildings; consequently large stocks of cement accumulated during the summer at the cement factories. The latter sought relief in the export market, with the result that the export prices fell quickly nearly 25 per cent. Owing to the demand brought about by these low prices, several of the syndicates disposed of a considerable portion of their stocks. The financial results realized during the year by the German cement works were, nevertheless, regarded upon the whole as good, in spite of the unfavourable state of trade, because the prices, regulated in the interior of Germany by means of agreements between the syndicates, ensured a good profit. These agreements have been renewed for 1909, and among the German cement works there has for several months past been an effort to raise the export prices, which had sunk far below the normal rate. Steps have, moreover, been already taken in this direction, and a minimum price has been fixed. . . . . Recently the state of trade appears to have shown some slight improvement, and, as money has become considerably cheaper, it is thought that in 1909 there will be an increasing activity in the building trade. As regards exports, the prospects are said to be good, although prices continue to fluctuate upon a level which apparently excludes the possibility of profit for the factories; it is anticipated that the financial results of 1909 will be satisfactory."

NOTICE TO EXPORTERS OF TINNED PROVISIONS TO JAPAN.

Percentage of Lead in Solder.

H.M. Commercial Attaché at Yokohama (Mr. E. F. Crowe) reports that the Japanese Police Authorities are now enforcing Art. III. of the Regulations respecting Receptacles for Provisions and Beverages issued by the Home Office in 1900. This Article provides that solder which is in contact with the contents of the tinned goods must not consist of an alloy with more than 20 per cent. of lead, while receptacles must not be lined with an alloy of tin and lead which contains more than 5 per cent. of lead. In soldering the outer portions of tins which contain, or are to contain, provisions, no alloy must be used which consists of more than 50 per cent. of lead.

Up to the present, says Mr. Crowe, several tins of provisions of American and French manufacture have been found to be in contravention of the last clause and have therefore been confiscated.

British exporters of tinned provisions to the Japanese market should, therefore, pay careful attention to this matter.

CONSTRUCTION AND WORKING OF RAILWAYS IN FRENCH WEST AFRICA.

H.M. Consul-General at Dakar (Major J. G. Baldwin) has forwarded the following report on railway construction and working in French West Africa.

The railways completed and under construction are as follows:—

——	Name of line.	State.
(1) Senegal	Dakar-Saint Louis Railway	Completed.
(2) Upper Senegal and Niger ...	Kayes-Koulikoro Railway...	"
(3) Senegal and Upper Senegal and Niger	Thies-Kayes Railway ...	Under construction.
(4) Guinea...	Conakry-Kouroussa Railway	" "
(5) Ivory Coast	Abidjan Railway	" "
(6) Dahomey	Cotonou Railway	" "
(7) "	Porto-Novo-Sakete Railway	Completed.

(1) The Dakar—Saint Louis Railway has a total length of 264 kiloms. (164 miles) and is worked by a guaranteed concessionaire company. Its principal stations are Dakar, Rufisque, Thies, and Saint Louis, and it may be said to exist on the ground-nut trade, for which Rufisque is the principal port of export.

The rolling stock is in bad condition, especially the passenger coaches. A supply of covered goods bogie waggons from Belgium are being put together in the Company's shops.

The total cost of the line is stated to have been twenty-one and a-half million francs (860,000*l.*), or about 5,000*l.* per mile.

Construction and Working of Railways in French West Africa.

(2) The Kayes-Koulikoro Railway has a total length of 555 kiloms. (345 miles). It connects the head of the navigation of the Senegal River at Kayes with the Niger at Koulikoro. The line was first opened to traffic on the 10th December, 1904. In 1907 the net profit of the line amounted, in round figures, to 50,000*l.*, or 145*l.* per mile; for the first nine months of 1908, the receipts amounted to 1,855,000 francs (74,200*l.*), as compared with 2,858,000 francs (114,320*l.*) for the completed year 1907.

The total cost of the line is put down at 49,570,177 francs (about 1,983,000*l.*), equal to about 5,168*l.* per mile.

(3) Thies-Kayes Railway. The object of this line is to make the traffic to the Sudan from the coast independent of the fluctuation of the Senegal River and to lessen handling. Over-sea goods for the northern inland districts, after having been landed at Dakar, have to be taken by rail to Saint Louis and thence by river to Kayes. On the completion of this line they will be taken direct and without transhipment from the wharf at Dakar to the Niger at Koulikoro. The line will, in addition, tap the rich country on the borders of the Gambia Colony, and will, in that respect, have a bad effect on the transit trade of that Colony.

The total length of the line when completed will be 680 kiloms. (422 miles), and at the end of 1908 about 100 kiloms. (62 miles) at the Thies end were open to traffic. Work is also going on at the other end, between Kayes and Ambidedi.

The expenditure for the construction of the line is being met at present out of loans of sixty-five and one hundred million francs, but the total amount ear-marked for the line is only fourteen million francs (560,000*l.*). The section Thies-N'Gahaye, 140 kiloms. in length, is estimated to cost ten million francs (400,000*l.*), and the Kayes-Ambidedi portion, which is 42 kiloms. long, has been allotted three and a-half million francs (140,000*l.*). On the basis of 75,000 francs, the cost per kilometre of the Thies-N'Gahaye section, the cost of the completed line will be fifty-one million francs (2,040,000*l.*), so that a further sum of thirty-seven millions (1,480,000*l.*) remains to be provided, necessarily out of some future loan.

(4) Conakry-Kouroussa Railway.—This line is to connect Conakry, the port of French Guinea, with the Upper Niger. Its length, when completed, will be about 588 kiloms. (365 miles), of which 284 kiloms. were completed on the 1st January, 1908, and 360 kiloms., or 224 miles, on the 1st January, 1909; on the latter date the line was open to traffic as far as Mamou, 296 kiloms., just half-way between Conakry and the Kouroussa terminus. The country through which the line runs, and the larger area which it will tap by its terminus on the Niger, is rich, and its position is close to the frontier of Sierra Leone.

Construction and Working of Railways in French West Africa.

A sum of 58,648,000 francs (2,346,000*l.*) has been allotted out of loan for the construction of the line, of which 29,868,000 francs (1,195,000*l.*) had been expended on 31st December, 1907, equal to about 5,000*l.* per mile.

The total receipts during 1907 amounted to 1,350,000 francs (54,000*l.*) and to 897,000 francs (35,880*l.*) for the first nine months of 1908.

(5) Abidjan Railway. No definite terminus seems to have been fixed yet for this railway. From the south it starts from Abidjan, a town on the chain of inland lagoons of the Ivory Coast, and runs roughly north towards the Kong district. At the end of 1908, it had reached to within a short distance of the River N'Zi, over which it is to be carried on a bridge 250 metres long. The distance from Abidjan to the River N'Zi is 185 kiloms. (115 miles), and the track is completed to within about six miles of that point.

So far as it has been carried, the rail runs through forests, but at the River N'Zi it reaches open country where, it is believed, it will pick up the trade of the hinterland.

A sum of thirty million francs (1,200,000*l.*) has been allotted out of loan for the construction of this line, of which 10,151,549 francs (406,000*l.*) had been spent at the end of 1907, or at the rate of about 6,300*l.* per mile.

At present, goods for the interior of the Ivory Coast have to be landed in lighters at Grand Bassam, taken across the strip of land between the sea and the lagoon, reloaded on the lagoon into steamers which take them to Abidjan, and then placed on the rail. A project for cutting a canal between the sea and the chain of lagoons has been deferred for the present.

(6) Cotonou Railway. This line is managed by a concessionaire company, and has been built partly by the Government and partly by the Company. It starts from Cotonou on the coast and runs generally north for a distance, at the beginning of 1908, of 267 kiloms. (166 miles). The amount allotted out of loan for the Government share of the construction is thirteen million francs (520,000*l.*), of which 342,000*l.* is for the repayment of a former loan. The amount expended up to the end of 1907 by the Government was 13,543,652 francs (about 542,000*l.*).

(7) The Porto-Novo-Sakete tramway, in Dahomey, runs north from the coast at Porto-Novo parallel to the Southern Nigeria frontier for a distance of 34 kiloms. (21 miles).

Up to the end of 1907 it had cost 1,852,586 francs (74,000*l.*), or about 3,500*l.* per mile.

All the railways in French West Africa are metre gauge, and it is understood that, as a rule, the rails weigh 25 kilogs. to the metre, or about 50 lbs. to the yard.

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES.

SERVIA.

Proposed Minimum Duties in the event of the Austro-Servian Commercial Treaty not being prolonged.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that on 15th March, the Servian Chamber passed the first reading of a Bill establishing a new minimum tariff, mainly with regard to the articles covered by the Commercial Convention between Austria-Hungary and Servia (see the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 2nd April, 1908, and the seven following issues). In the event of the operation of the Convention in question not being prolonged after 31st March, it is intended to apply the rates of the minimum tariff from 1st April to the products of all countries entitled to most-favoured-nation treatment in Servia. With a few exceptions, the new rates proposed are understood to be considerably higher than those fixed by the Convention.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

DOMINION OF CANADA: ONTARIO.

Sale and Export of certain Fish Prohibited.

The "Canada Gazette" for 6th March contains an Order-in-Council, dated 16th February, which amends the Ontario Fishery Regulations made under the Order-in-Council of 12th September, 1907, with a view to protecting certain fisheries in that Province.

The present Order-in-Council provides that the sale and export of

(1) Black bass,
(2) Maskinongé, and
(3) Speckled trout,

no matter where procured, shall be prohibited for a period of five years from 30th May, 1909, provided, however, that any person from a foreign country, fishing in the waters of the Province, and applying and paying for an angler's permit, may take with him the lawful catch of two days' fishing, when the same is accompanied by him, upon leaving the Province.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Duty on Concentrated Varnish.

The Board of Trade have received from the Representative of the Commonwealth of Australia in London a copy of the Statutory Rules (No. 14 of 1909), dated 27th January, which amend the Regulation No. 101 of the Customs Regulations, No. 25 of 1904 by laying down the following standard according to which duty shall be

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—*continued.*

charged on concentrated varnish imported into the Australian Commonwealth :—

Concentrated varnish :

2¼ lbs. of concentrated varnish shall be deemed equal to 1 gallon of varnish.

The provisional regulation made on 10th November, 1908 (Statutory Rule No. 115 of 1908) is cancelled.

NOTE—The import duties leviable on varnish are as follows :

		s.	d.
Under the General tariff ...	per gall....	2	6
,, ,, United Kingdom tariff	per gall....	2	0

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

Importation of Fluid Preparations of Opium.

The "New Zealand Gazette" for 4th February contains an Order-in-Council, dated 2nd February, prohibiting the importation into New Zealand of any fluid preparation of opium containing a greater quantity of extractive matter than tincture of opium prepared according to the Pharmacopœia of the United States of America.

Customs Decisions.

The same issue of the "Gazette" contains a Minister's Order (No. 899), dated 1st February, giving Customs decisions respecting the rates of duty leviable on various articles imported into New Zealand.

The following are the principal decisions given :—

Articles.	Tariff No.	Rate of Import Duty on articles the growth, produce or manufacture of	
		Foreign Countries.	Any part of the British Dominions.
Bicycle chain adjusters	184	30 % *ad val.*	**20 % ad val.**
Cages, wire cloth, for handling bees and giving demonstrations	197	30 % ,,	**20 %** ,,
Camera cases, specially suited for carrying camera and plates	340	10 % ,,	**Free**
Educational apparatus, viz.— Demonstration lantern, prismatic compass, and gyroscope for schools, and also hot air motor and ice-crushing machines for school laboratories on declaration that they will be used for teaching purposes only	445	Free	Free
Envelopes of corrugated strawboard for bottles	163	37½ % *ad val.*	**25 % ad val.**
Foresters' costumes and top boots	505	Free	Free
Gluten meal	35	30 % *ad val.*	**20 % ad val.**

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND—*continued.*

Articles.	Tariff No.	Rate of Import Duty on articles the growth, produce or manufacture of	
		Foreign Countries.	Any part of the British Dominions.
Indiarubber tubing in short lengths, specially made for Westinghouse brakes ...	398	Free	Free
Launches, fittings for, viz.—			
Sockets for awnings, spray-hood sockets, grommet and pigtail hooks and curtain-toggles	476	Free	Free
Machines, agricultural, viz.—			
Hay stacking outfit, specially constructed carrier and hook for	362	Free	Free
Hay stacking outfit, cordage and other apparatus for	Dutiable according to kind	—	—
Machinery, viz.—			
Bag-tallying machine for counting automatically bags of flour or other produce as they pass down a shoot	196	30 % *ad val.*	**20 % ad val.**
Petrol motor locomotive			
Power-scraper for removing earth, sand, &c.			
Sack-cleaning machine			
Rock drill pump, hoisting apparatus, and derrick for use with...	196 or 197	30 % „	**20 %** „
Rock drill, all iron tubing for, whether accompanying the drill or imported separately	394	20 % „	**Free**
Soap, olive oil	263	37½ % „	**25 % ad val.**
Steel, in flat narrow strips, for making lead calins	395	20 % „	**Free**
Sundials...	197	30 % „	**20 % ad val.**
Sweetening solution containing soluble saccharin...	76	1*s.* 6*d.* per oz. on estimated quantity of saccharin.	
"Tartaraline"—a substitute for cream of tartar	80	30 % *ad val.*	**20 % ad val.**
Watch-bracelets (taken to pieces to avoid preferential duty)	141	30 % „	**20 %** „

SOUTH AFRICA.

Customs Decisions.

The following Customs Notices (Nos. 106 and 107) have been issued by the Cape Government by order of the Board of Control giving certain Customs decisions respecting the rates of duty leviable on various articles imported into the South African Customs Union:—

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SOUTH AFRICA—*continued.*

Articles.	Tariff No.	Rate of Duty.	Rebate allowed upon goods, the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom and reciprocating British Colonies.
No. 106.			
Caps for bottles or jars of common glass or earthenware	66	3 % *ad val.*	3 % *ad val.*
Mining rescue apparatus and smoke helmets ...	83	3 % "	3 % "
Rubber rings: For bottles commonly used for aerated waters	66	3 % "	3 % "
For bottles or jars of common glass or earthenware... ...	66	3 % "	3 % "
For hermetically sealing tins such as preserve and jam tins—to pay the same duty as the tins themselves, viz. ...	175	15 % "	3 % "
*Screw stoppers for bottles or jars of common glass or earthenware	66	3 % "	3 % "
No. 107.			
Crushed quarts, for use in "Airedale" filter ...	175	15 % "	3 % "

* Revised decision.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Notice respecting entries of Goods in Transit.

The "East African Standard" for 27th February, contains the text of a Customs notice issued by the Chief of Customs at Mombasa on 20th February, drawing attention to the fact that transit agents, when declaring in transit goods imported from beyond the seas, fail in some cases to show the number of packages in the transit entry, and that it is the practice to mix packages declared for home consumption with those declared in transit, and to pass them out indiscriminately.

The Chief of Customs consequently notifies that, in future, goods will be tallied, both at the port of entry and at the port of exit, strictly according to marks and numbers, and that unless at the port of exit the numbers on the packages are found to agree with those given in the transit entry, a refund of duty paid on goods contained in such packages will not be granted.

Refund of Duty on Goods in transit paid only on Exportation.

A further notice was also issued by the Mombasa Collector of Customs on 20th February, stating that, from 1st March, 1909, no application for refund of duty paid on produce, declared inwards in transit and intended for exportation, will be entertained until all the produce entered inwards on the entry in respect to which refund of duty is claimed has been duly cleared outwards, and been exported or otherwise accounted for to the satisfaction of the Chief of Customs.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

NETHERLANDS.

Duty-free Admission of certain Chemicals for use in Factories.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy and translation of two Dutch Royal Decrees, dated the 19th February, providing for the duty-free admission, under certain conditions, of—

(*a*) Vinegar and ligneous acid for use in lithophone factories; and

(*b*) Collodion required for use in factories where preparations for hardening incandescent gas mantles are manufactured.

SPAIN—ROUMANIA.

Commercial Convention between the above Countries.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a Commercial Convention between Spain and Roumania which was signed at Vienna on the 18th November/1st December, 1908, and ratified on the 6th/19th February last.

This Convention provides for reciprocal most-favoured-nation treatment as regards import and export duties and the treatment of vessels and their cargoes, exception being made in the case of the special privileges which Spain accords or may in future accord to Portugal and Morocco. The Convention is to remain in force until one year after denunciation by either Contracting Party.

ITALY.

Customs Classification of Polished Brass Tubes.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy and translation of an Order of the Italian Ministry of Finance, dated the 3rd March, which provides that tubes of polished (*lucidati*) brass are to be assimilated for Customs purposes to tubes of lacquered brass, which are dutiable at the rate of 30 lire per 100 kilogrammes.

GREECE.

New Duties on certain Oils.—Withdrawal of Bill for the Increase of the Duty on Fat and Tallow Candles.

With reference to the notice at page 483 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 11th March respecting the proposed increase of the Greek import duties on certain oils, fat, and tallow candles, the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the Bill increasing the duties on fat and on tallow candles (Tariff No. 7a) has been withdrawn by the Minister of Finance. The Bill modifying the tariff classification of and the duty on certain oils passed its third

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

reading in the Greek Chamber on March 9th. The new duties are shown in the subjoined statement :—

Tariff No.	New Classification.	Rate of Duty.	
	Olive oil and sesame oil—		Drachmae (metallic).
42 (*a*)	In bottles or other receptacles except casks, skins and the like	100 okes	100·00*
42 (*b*)	In casks, skins and the like	"	30·00*
42 (*c*)	All other edible oils such as oil of cotton-seed, of earth-nuts, of rape-seed, of sunflowers and the like, in bottles or any other receptacles	"	100·00*
43 (*a*)	Non-edible oils (except mineral, aromatic and medicinal oils), as also linseed oil	"	30·00*
	The former tariff classification was—		
42	*Oils, edible, in bottles or other vessels except casks, skins and the like*	"	100·00*
43 (*a*)	*Oils of all other kinds, edible or not (except mineral, aromatic and medicinal oils), and boiled linseed oil*	"	30·00*

* Payable in paper currency, at the rate of 1.45 dr. paper to 1 dr. metallic.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Customs Decisions.

The following is the substance of some Decisions affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff, which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington :—

Articles.	Paragraph of the Tariff under which dutiable.	Rate of Duty.
Casein, as "lactarene"	594	Free.
Oxide of iron, or hematite iron ore, which is in a powdered state resulting from a process of grinding and levigation, and which is used in the manufacture of paint and in colouring leather board, &c., dutiable as a colour or pigment ...	58	30 % *ad val.*
Glycerophosphate of lime, which, though occasionally dispensed medicinally in its imported form, is almost always used in combination with other drugs in the preparation of elixirs, is not a medicinal preparation within the meaning of paragraph 67 of the Tariff, but is dutiable as a chemical compound	3	25 % "
Crepe paper.—A paper made by the creping process, which resembles crepe paper, except that it is heavier, and has been subjected to waterproofing treatment, dutiable as crepe paper ...	397	5 cts. per lb., and 15 % *ad val.*
Lace paper.—Plain paper stamped by a single operation into shapes with a lace-like effect, dutiable as "paper"	402	25 % *ad val.*
Duplex paper.—So-called duplex lithographic transfer paper, produced by pasting together two sheets of paper, one coated with a gummy substance and the other uncoated, dutiable as "paper" rather than as "manufactures" of paper ... ... [This reverses a decision reported in the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 2nd July, 1908.]	402	25 % "

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

Allowance for theft before arrival—but not after.—While allowance by way of deduction in duty can properly be made for goods stolen before arrival in the United States, no such allowance is permissible where the theft has occurred after their arrival at a port of entry in the United States, or during their transhipment in bond to another port.

Embroidered boxes.—Under the proviso in paragraph 339 of the Tariff that "no . . . article . . . embroidered . . . shall pay duty at a less rate than that imposed in any schedule of this Act upon any embroideries of the materials of which such embroidery is composed," silk-embroidered candy boxes are subject to the duty provided in paragraph 390 for embroideries of silk.

Furnished toilet cases.—Metal-topped glass bottles in fancy leather cases do not with the cases constitute entireties, but the bottles and cases are separately classifiable for the assessment of duty.

Automobiles are not household effects similar to "books, libraries, usual and reasonable furniture," and are not, therefore, entitled to entry free of duty under the provisions of paragraph 504 of the Tariff.

Artificial horsehair is dutiable as cotton yarn by similitude under paragraph 302 of the Tariff, rather than as silk yarn by similitude under paragraph 385.

[The above modifies a decision reported in the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 9th August, 1906.]

Braids of cotton and india rubber, rubber chief value.—The provision in paragraph 339 of the Tariff for "braids . . . wholly or in chief value of . . . cotton, . . .whether composed in part of india rubber or otherwise," is limited to braids in which cotton is the chief component; and braids of cotton and india rubber, in which the rubber is the chief component, are dutiable under paragraph 449 as manufactures in chief value of india rubber.

[The above modifies a decision reported in the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 4th April, 1907.]

Decorated decanters not bottles.—Decorated glass decanters containing cordials are not glass *bottles* such as are required to be packed in packages containing not less than one dozen bottles in each package under the provisions of paragraph 296 of the Tariff.

Zinc ores.—The zinc ores known as carbonate, silicate, and sulphide of zinc are free of duty, the carbonate and silicate as "calamine" under paragraph 514 of the Tariff, and the sulphide as "minerals, crude," under paragraph 614, except that when containing lead the lead contents are subject to the duty provided in paragraph 181 on "lead-bearing ore of all kinds."

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

Cut paste.—Paste, though a form of glass, is not glass within the meaning of the Tariff, and cut paste articles are dutiable as manufactures of "paste" under paragraph 112, rather than as articles of cut "glass" under paragraph 100.

Metal thread fabrics.—The provision in paragraph 179 of the Tariff for "laces, embroideries, . . . or other articles . . . in chief value of . . . metal threads" is not limited to goods *ejusdem generis* with the laces, &c., there enumerated; and fabrics in the piece, composed in chief value of metal thread and in part of silk, are dutiable as "articles" under said provision rather than under paragraph 387 as fabrics in part of silk.

MEXICO.

Prolongation of the Law for the Encouragement of Industry.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the Mexican Law of the 14th December, 1898, respecting the establishment of new industries in Mexico, has been prolonged for a period of five years, *i.e.*, until the 14th December, 1913.

The Law in question authorises the Mexican Government to accord to companies investing not less than 100,000 pesos in the establishment and working of industries which are entirely new in the Republic, exemption from Customs duty in respect of all machinery, apparatus, tools and appliances, and construction materials necessary for the establishment of the industry and the erection of the works. Concessionaires are required to furnish a bond in each case covering the goods thus introduced, which will be cancelled as soon as the machinery has been erected or proof furnished that the apparatus, tools and materials have been employed for the purpose for which they were ostensibly imported.

ECUADOR.

Fee for the Certification of Consular Invoices.

A Law published in the "Registro Oficial" of Ecuador for 16th October prescribes that for the certification of invoices covering goods of a value exceeding 100 sucres, Ecuadorian consuls shall from 1st January, 1909, charge three per cent. of the declared value. The additional 1 per cent. of the declared value which was levied as a temporary measure during 1906, 1907 and 1908 is thus rendered permanent.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

FRANCE—URUGUAY—ARGENTINA.

Service between Marseilles and the Rio de la Plata.

H. M. Consul-General at Marseilles (Mr. M. C. Gurney, M.V.O.) reports that he has learned on good authority that the "Sectransport Gesellschaft" of Hamburg intend to institute a regular service from Marseilles to Montevideo, Buenos Aires and Rosario, calling at Genoa only. It is stated that the service will be started by a vessel of 5,600 tons, leaving Marseilles about the end of March, to be followed by another vessel about 25th April.

FRANCE (ALGERIA).

Proposed Railway Construction. from Ouenza to Bona.

H.M. Embassy at Paris have forwarded an extract from the "Temps" from which it appears that a project for the construction of a railway from the iron mine of Ouenza (situated about 200 kiloms. from the coast near the Tunisian frontier) to the port of Bona has been modified with a view of placing Bizerta as well as Bona in communication with Ouenza, by means of a branch line from the last-named to Nebeur and thence by the Tunis line to Bizerta. The reason for this change is the desire expressed by the Minister of Marine that merchant ships bringing coal to the Tunisian port should have return cargoes in the shape of ore from the mines of Algeria. The ports of Bona and Bizerta will thus share in the transport of the produce of the Ouenza mine, which consists of a non-phosphoric kind of iron ore employed in the manufacture of axles, springs, armoured plates, &c.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—BRAZIL—ARGENTINA.

New Express Passenger SS. Service.

H.M. Consul-General at New York (Mr. C. W. Bennett, C.I.E.) reports that the Liverpool, Brazil, and River Plate Steam Navigation Company, Limited, will, in May next, inaugurate a new express passenger service between New York, Rio de Janeiro, and Buenos Aires. For this purpose the new vessel "Vasiri," of about 12,000 tons gross, will be sent to New York early in May, and, it is understood, will be kept exclusively in the New York–Rio de Janeiro–Buenos Aires trade. The "Vasiri" is expected to make the voyage from New York to Rio de Janeiro in about 14 days.

BRAZIL.

Madeira-Mamore Railway.

Adverting to the notice on page 373 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 22nd August, 1907, the acting British Consul at Pará reports that the Madeira-Mamore Railway Company have established their headquarters at Porto Velho de São Antonio, about four miles below São Antonio, and have already constructed a terminal, and

are fitting up large workshops. About 50 kiloms. of line is graded and ready for track-laying as soon as a hard rock cutting is completed, and something like 100 kiloms. of line is located. Now that the preliminary works are completed and a thoroughly efficient equipment and organisation established, it is expected that rapid progress will be made.

PERU.

Port Conditions at Callao: Recommendation to Shipowners.

With reference to the notice on pp. 561-2 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 11th June, 1908, relative to the congestion of shipping and consequent accumulation of merchandise at the Port of Callao, a letter has now been received from the British Vice-Consul at that city (Mr. G. G. Wilson), stating that the situation has been somewhat eased recently by the acquisition of additional rolling-stock, to the insufficiency of which the former delay in the discharge of vessels was greatly due. At the beginning of February, he says, there was not a single vessel awaiting a berth, and ships now receive a fairly prompt discharge. The enlargement of the Custom-house depôts for the reception of the accumulated merchandise has also contributed to the improvement.

The Vice-Consul recommends, however, that express stipulations be laid down in charter parties, with reference to the discharge of vessels at the port of Callao.

CHINA (MANCHURIA).

Berthage Dues at Dairen.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Dairen (Mr. E. Gordon) has forwarded a translation of an article in the local press regarding the establishment of berthage and shifting dues at the port. These dues, which are expected to take effect from the 1st April, are as follows:—

Vessels.	Berthage Rates. Yen.	Shifting Rates. Yen.
Under 200 tons	2	—
„ 500 „	10	3
„ 1,500 „	25	15
„ 3,000 „	40	25
„ 5,000 „	55	40
Above 5,000 „	65	45

At night-time 20 per cent. extra will be charged, and for the use of a tug boat, 50 per cent. extra. (The extra charge for the use of a tug boat applies only when a vessel shifts from one berth to another.)

Yen = 2*s.* 0½*d*

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

CAPE COLONY.

Manganese Discovery.

The Board of Trade Correspondent at Cape Town (Mr. E. J. Cattell) has forwarded a cutting from the "Cape Times" of 27th February, reporting a discovery of manganese on the Devil's Peak (Table Mountain). The deposits, which are believed to be rich, cover an extent of about 1,000 acres, stretching from the first peak of the Devil's Peak on the Cape Town side, right through to the side above Groot Schuur. The quality of the manganese is stated to be very good, but until the deposit is developed it is difficult to compute what quantity of ore it may contain, though it is apparent that the reef is many feet in thickness. The prospectors have already dug out about 120 tons of first-class ore.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (CHRISTMAS ISLAND).

Export of Phosphate of Lime.

The Registrar of Imports and Exports at Singapore (Mr. A. Stuart) reports that the export of phosphate of lime by the company operating at Christmas Island reached, in 1908, 109,097 tons, being 1,278 tons less than in the previous year. The whole quantity was sent to Japan, the continent of Europe, Australia and New Zealand, none being sent to the United Kingdom.

RUSSIA.

Gold Production.

The "Frankfürter Zeitung" of 12th March publishes the following figures relative to the production of gold in Russia since 1906:—

Year.	Quantity.		Value.	
	Pouds.	Ozs. Troy.	Roubles.	£
1906	2,262	1,187,550	47,867,000	5,052,628
1907	2,314	1,214,850	48,965,000	5,168,528
1908	2,575	1,351,875	54,496,000	5,752,356

NETHERLANDS.

Imports of British and German Coals.

H.M. Consul at Amsterdam (Mr. W. A. Churchill), remarking on the diminution of the imports of British coal into the Netherlands in 1908 (2,122,639 metric tons as compared with 3,782,913 metric tons in 1907), and the increase in the imports of German coal (5,576,461 metric tons against 4,896,608 metric tons), states that this was due to the diminished demand for

coal in Germany, and accordingly the possibility for German mines to supply foreign customers, which was not the case in 1907 when all the available coal was required in Germany, where ironworks were exceptionally busy. Cheap water communications by the Rhine and Dutch canals place the Westphalia mine-owners in a superior position as compared with their British competitors. Another factor in their favour is that they can supply urgent orders by rail within two days. British (not Cardiff) and German bunker coals are quoted at 14s. per ton f.o.b., not trimmed, for 1909. Severe competition is expected this year, and importers are not stocking British coals, as they fear that the Westphalia Syndicate will lower their prices.

Mr. Churchill adds that the Steenkolen Handelsvereeniging Syndicaat of Utrecht, which is understood to be an agency of the Westphalia Syndicate, is establishing a coaling station at Ymuiden. Formerly coal was conveyed thither by rail from Amsterdam and discharged from a coal tip into lighters, but now Rhine vessels will load in the Ruhr district and carry their cargoes direct to Ymuiden, where adequate mechanical devices are in course of erection for rapid delivery to ocean steamers.

FRANCE.

Pig Iron and Steel Ingot Production in 1908.

The French "Journal Officiel" of 10th March publishes the following statistics relating to the production of pig iron and steel in France during the year 1908, with comparative figures for the preceding year:—

	1907.	1908.*
	Metric tons.	Metric tons.
Pig iron—		
Foundry...	639,914	702,489
Forge ...	661,107	548,609
Bessemer	124,776	122,758
Thomas ...	2,107,209	1,977,419
Special ...	57,229	61,118
Total ...	3,590,235	3,412,393
Mild steel ingots—		
Bessemer (acid)	78,771	75,114
Thomas (basic)	1,669,757	1,636,535
Martin and other open hearth	1,001,463	1,011,975
Crucible or electric furnace ...	16,782	19,421
Total ...	2,766,773	2,743,045

* Provisional figures.

Minerals, Metals and Machinery.

FRANCE—*continued.*

Coal and Lignite Production in 1908.

The same issue of the "Journal Officiel" contains the following statistics of coal and lignite production in France in 1908, with comparative figures for 1907:—

——	1907.	1908.
	Metric tons.	Metric tons.
Coal and anthracite	35,988,940	36,873,711
Lignite	764,687	748,845
Total	36,753,627	37,622,556

ITALY (SICILY).

Sulphur Industry.

With reference to the notice on p. 337 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 18th February relative to the dissolution of the administration of the obligatory association of Sicilian sulphur mine-owners and the appointment of a Royal Commissioner to administer the association temporarily, H.M. Consul at Palermo (Mr. S. J. A. Churchill, M.V.O.) writes that the Government have appointed four delegates to assist the Commissioner. It is reported that a draft Bill will be laid before Parliament in order to modify the law governing the sulphur industry.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Steel Production.

The "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York) of 13th March publishes the following statistics, which have been issued by the American Iron and Steel Association, of the total production of steel in the United States in 1908 as compared with 1907. (The figures do not include crucible steel, which has never exceeded 1 per cent. of the total production in any year):—

——	1907.	1908.
	Tons.	Tons.
Bessemer	11,667,549	6,116,755
Open-hearth—		
Acid	1,270,421	696,304
Basic	10,279,315	7,084,568
Total	23,217,285	13,897,627

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

BAHAMAS.

Sisal Industry.

The Canadian Commercial Agent for the Bahamas (Mr. R. H. Curry) reports that one of the principal exports of those islands is sisal, which continues to make steady progress. The exports during the financial year 1907-8 were 4,279,484 lbs., valued at 46,361*l.*; the entire amount was shipped to the United States. The Commercial Agent thinks there is no reason why binder twine, rope, &c., should not be manufactured in the Bahamas at a much less cost than it can be at present manufactured in Canada with the Mexican fibre, as there is no lack of cheap labour in the islands. The machine-cleaned fibre produced in the Bahamas is much superior to that produced in Mexico. In the New York market, Bahamas machine-cleaned fibre realises from 1 to 1½ cents per pound more than the Mexican. Machine-cleaned fibre is worth about 2 cents more per pound than the hand-cleaned.

The estimated area under sisal cultivation is considerably over 30,000 acres, and the acreage is increasing, especially on the outer islands of the Bahamas group. The fibre grown in the Bahamas is said to be superior in strength to other fibres. There are large quantities of land available for sisal, only the necessary capital being lacking.

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 20th March, 1909, were as follows:—

Wheat	35*s.*	9*d.*
Barley	28*s.*	0*d.*
Oats	18*s.*	5*d.*

For further particulars see p. 593.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 594, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 20th March, 1909, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1908.

CEYLON.

Crops.

A supplement to the "Ceylon Observer" of the 12th February contains the annual report, for the year ending 31st December, 1908, of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, from which the following details of some of the principal crops have been extracted:—

Agriculture.

CEYLON—*continued.*

Tea.—Speaking generally the season in 1908 has not been so favourable for yield as 1907. The total shipments of black and green tea in 1908 were 180,049,321 lbs., as compared with 182,023,732 lbs. in 1907. The area under cultivation is being increased, as indicated by the continued demand and high prices paid for tea seed. The outlook at present is encouraging for all classes of Ceylon tea, and the crop for 1909 is estimated at 182,000,000 lbs.

Rubber generally in the low country, where planted in suitable soil, is a distinct agricultural success. Some of the drier districts suffered somewhat last year from the abnormally dry weather, but, generally speaking, the growth was good. A much smaller acreage was opened during 1908 than in the four years immediately preceding, as with the fall in prices, following on several very busy seasons, many proprietors thought it advisable to mark time. The greatest keenness is evinced by all estate managers in the general treatment of this product, and a new method of tapping, which promises to be a success, should greatly economise labour and cost of working.

Cacao.—The crop for the year was 62,186 cwts., as against 92,511 cwts. in 1907, the deficiency being the result of the worst drought known in most of the cacao districts for the last 25 years. Partial rains set in, however, in September, and the general condition of the estates is now favourable. The estimated crop for 1909 is 75,000 cwts.

Cardamoms.—Owing to the prolonged drought, the crops were generally irregular, the fruit smaller, and the bulk of the crop gathered from the top fields. Prospects for 1909 are promising, but at present 750,000 lbs. is the estimated crop for the year.

Camphor.—The acreage under this product has increased but little during the year. The price has fallen from 400*s.* to 135*s.* per cwt. during the last two years owing to the introduction of synthetic camphor. The price however is dependent on that of turpentine, and as this shows a tendency to increase, the outlook is more hopeful.

Coconut Products.—*Coconut oil* shows a material increase, the total being 629,122 cwts. against only 460,683 cwts. for 1907.

Copra.—The year for copra was also a good one, the figure being more than double that of 1907, viz., 729,140 cwts. against 347,970 cwts.

Desiccated nut.—The year was a very remarkable one for desiccated nut, being the best in the last decade for nut crops, while prices were the very worst, ranging from 13¼ cts. to 17 cts. per lb. for ordinary assortment, say, 50 per cent. fine, 40 per cent. medium, and 10 per cent. coarse grades. The year ended with a total export of 26,486,222 lbs., as compared with 22,359,138 lbs. in 1907.

Agriculture.

CEYLON—*continued.*

Owing to the total failure of both monsoon rains this year, nut crops are almost sure to be short, which points to higher prices for all palm products in 1909.

Nuts in shell.—Last year, with a total of 20,609,864 nuts exported, far exceeds any year since 1898, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Africa being, as usual, the principal recipients.

Poonac.—Like the other nut produce, this is far ahead of any previous year since 1898, save and excepting 1893, when the record quantity of nearly 300,000 cwts. was shipped. As the export of copra increases this will probably fall off, the crushing mills in Europe producing it cheaper and fresher than it can be imported.

ROUMANIA.

Agricultural Outlook.

H.M. Consul at Bucharest (Mr. O. Wardrop) reports, with regard to the agricultural outlook in Roumania, that on account of the persistent frost and snow in February, the usual spring labour in the fields has not been possible anywhere. The autumn sowings have not suffered from frost, but rape seed has suffered severely, and gives little hope, especially the seed put in late and not protected against the frosts. The latest official figures show that the area sown in the autumn of 1908 was as follows:—

	Hectares.		
Wheat	1,586,528	=	3,918,724 acres
Rye	122,863	=	303,471 ,,
Barley	74,618	=	184,305 ,,
Rape	131,086	=	323,782 ,,

These figures, which, however, are only provisional, show a considerable diminution as compared with the statistics for the two preceding years.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended 18th March, 1909, was 51,314 (including 17 bales British West Indian and 58 bales British East African), and the number imported during the eleven weeks ended the 18th March was 1,595,636 (including 1,793 bales British West Indian, 765 bales British West African, 2,114 bales British East African, and 278 bales foreign East African). The number of bales exported during the week ended the 18th March was 5,946, and during the eleven weeks 75,779.

For further details see p. 593.

Miscellaneous.

UNITED KINGDOM—*continued.*

Inspectors of Weights and Measures.

The following persons nominated by Local Authorities for the post of Inspector of Weights and Measures have passed the examination provided for under the 8th Section of the Weights and Measures Act, 1904:—J. G. Dodds, Bucks; D. W. Griffiths, Denbighshire; J. Lever, Lancashire; H. Stoneleigh, London County; S. Turner, Lancashire; F. R. Walton, London County.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Proposed Legislation respecting Copyright and Bankruptcy.

Copies of the following publications, viz., (1) a Bill to amend and consolidate the Acts respecting copyright in the United States, (2) a report on the Bill by the Committee of Patents, and (3) a report by the Committee on the Judiciary on a Bill to establish an uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States, have been received at the Board of Trade and may be seen by British traders interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Blue Fox Farm in Alaska.

H.M. Consul-General at New Orleans (Mr. H. T. C. Hunt) has forwarded a newspaper cutting relating to the establishment of a blue fox farm on Hound Island, off the coast of Alaska. The first killing is to take place in the coming spring, when it is expected that 600 foxes will be killed, having skins of an estimated value of 35,000 dols.

CHINA (MANCHURIA).

Manufacture of Paper from Kaoliang.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Dairen (Mr. E. S. Gordon) has forwarded an extract from a local newspaper relating to experiments that are being undertaken with a view to the making of paper from the stalks of "kaoliang." This article, it appears, is already utilised by the natives as food, drink, fuel, and even as building material, and the stalks have now been found to contain a larger percentage of fibre suitable for making paper than is generally found in corn-stalks. A sample of paper manufactured from the kaoliang stalks at the central laboratory shows they are well suited for that purpose. Further researches are being carried on in order to ascertain whether the process can be worked on a commercial basis. Should the experiments prove satisfactory, the industry should possess immense potentialities, as kaoliang grows in almost inexhaustible quantities throughout the whole of Southern Manchuria.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the week and 11 weeks ended 18th March, 1909 :—

—	Week ended 18th March, 1909.	11 Weeks ended 18th March, 1909.	Week ended 18th March, 1909.	11 Weeks ended 18th March, 1909.
	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American	31,573	1,368,874	3,394	52,520
Brazilian	—	5,731	532	1,735
East Indian	2,529	27,998	37	10,080
Egyptian	17,128	178,597	1,945	10,617
Miscellaneous	84*	14,436†	38	827
Total	51,314	1,595,636	5,946	75,779

* Including 17 bales British West Indian and 58 bales British East African.

† Including 1,793 bales British West Indian, 765 bales British West African, 2,114 bales British East African and 278 bales foreign East African.

NOTE.—Cotton "in transit" or "for transhipment under bond," *if described as such in the ships' reports*, is not included in this return.

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn,** per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 20th March, 1909, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

—	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Week ended 20th March, 1909...	35	9	28	0	18	5
Corresponding week in—						
1902	27	2	27	2	20	7
1903	25	2	22	4	17	0
1904	28	2	22	8	16	7
1905	30	9	25	2	17	0
1906	28	4	24	4	18	8
1907	26	10	24	0	18	1
1908	31	7	26	2	17	11

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 20th March, 1909, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

—		Week ended 20th March, 1909.	*Corresponding Week in 1908.*
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows and calves	Number	4,649	*9,535*
Sheep and lambs	"	—	*2,714*
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	125	*111*
Fresh meat :—			
Beef (including refrigerated and frozen) ...	Cwts.	165,417	*109,387*
Mutton " " " ...	"	104,614	*83,173*
Pork " " " ...	"	8,853	*12,491*
Meat unenumerated, fresh (including refrigerated and frozen)	"	20,872	*15,054*
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	72,209	*127,728*
Beef	"	1,652	*1,680*
Hams	"	21,415	*24,856*
Pork	"	3,130	*5,920*
Meat, unenumerated, salted	"	504	*1,729*
" preserved otherwise than by salting (including tinned and canned)	"	8,617	*4,416*
Diary Produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	77,541	*84,228*
Margarine	"	14,890	*17,658*
Cheese	"	12,581	*14,611*
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	—	—
" cream	"	113	*78*
" condensed	"	24,084	*14,167*
" preserved, other kinds	"	164	*130*
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	214,553	*255,230*
Poultry	Value £	23,122	*9,903*
Game	"	2,264	*1,372*
Rabbits, dead (fresh and frozen)	Cwts.	15,689	*5,356*
Lard	"	25,385	*54,871*
Corn, grain, meal, and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	2,504,700	*2,016,200*
Wheat meal and flour	"	247,300	*278,300*
Barley	"	281,800	*203,700*
Oats	"	301,900	*334,500*
Peas	"	20,500	*23,210*
Beans	"	2,890	*19,500*
Maize or Indian corn	"	557,400	*558,800*
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	39,733	*65,289*
Apricots and peaches	"	47	—
Bananas	Bunches.	122,133	*137,696*
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	254	*1,261*
Lemons	"	10,785	*19,376*
Oranges	"	281,123	*189,144*
Pears	"	369	*86*
Plums	"	103	—
Strawberries	"	—	—
Unenumerated	"	1,067	*205*
Hay	Tons.	1,223	*262*
Straw	"	192	*163*
Moss litter	"	1,260	*2,159*
Hops	Cwts.	3,184	*1,560*
Locust beans	"	17,980	*14,272*
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	119,445	*109,896*
Potatoes	Cwts.	16,304	*170,775*
Tomatoes	"	12,550	*28,221*
Unenumerated	Value £	13,370	*9,271*
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	4,245	*4,033*
" preserved by canning	"	8,939	*5,499*

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of February, 1909, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance, of 1*s.* 4*d.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that two volumes and a Supplement of the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1907 have been issued, and may be purchased at any of the addresses enumerated above at a cost of 5*s.* 7*d.* for the first volume, 3*s.* 4*d.* for the second volume, and 3*s.* 10*d.* for the supplement. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives in the first volume abstract tables for the years 1903-1907, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), in the second volume details as to Customs revenue, transhipments and articles in bond, with particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country and British possession, and of the trade at each port of the United Kingdom, and in the Supplement abstract and detailed tables showing countries of *consignment* of imports and countries of *ultimate destination* of exports.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The "Board of Trade Labour Gazette"* is published by the Board of Trade on the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appear in the March issue:—State of the Labour Market in February; Cost of Living in French Towns; Royal Commission on the Poor Laws; Railway Conciliation Boards; Amendment of Law relating to Employment of Women and Children in Germany; Recent Conciliation and Arbitration Cases.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Consular Reports of the **Annual Series** have been issued during the past week:—

No. 4,182. Report for the year 1908 on the Shipping and Navigation of the Port of Antwerp.

Commercial conditions and outlook.
Navigation returns.
Belgian mercantile marine.
Inland waterways.
Extension of the port of Antwerp.
The *Grande Coupure.*

* It can be purchased through any newsagent, price 1*d.*

Government Publications.

Passenger communications: Harwich—Antwerp, New York—Antwerp, &c.

Dredging of the Scheldt.

Port accommodation and equipment.

Opening of the Royers lock; berthing accommodation; new dry dock.

Port dues.

Shipbuilding.

Seamen on British ships; language test; transmission of wages.

The report includes a map showing the river quays and basins at Antwerp, with new docks under construction.

No. 4,183. Trade of Southern Italy for the year 1908.

Effects of the drought on agriculture; failure of olive oil crop.

Port works at Naples.

Proposed dock construction at Lake Avernus.

New water supply and drainage works for Naples.

Motor omnibus service experiments.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. Agricultural Statistics, 1908. *Vol. XLIII. Part II. Returns of Produce of Crops in Great Britain, with Summaries for the United Kingdom.* [*Cd.* 4,562]. *Price* 4½*d.*

This return shows the total produce and yield per acre of the principal crops in each county of Great Britain during 1907, with summaries for the United Kingdom. [Preliminary statistics of the wheat, barley and oat crops of Great Britain were published in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 12th November last, p. 315, and of the potato, turnip and swede, and mangold crops in that of 26th November last, p. 406].

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the Annual and Miscellaneous Series since the 1st January, 1909. may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in Italic type.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—			**ASIA—**	
	Belgium:			**Japan:**	
4182	Antwerp, Shipping, 1908 ...	6½*d.*	*672*	*Raw Silk Industry and Habutae (Japanese Manufactured Silk)*	3*d.*
	Italy:				
4183	Southern Italy, 1908 ...	1*d.*	*674*	*Matting Industry*	1½*d.*
673	*Agriculture of Southern Italy*	2*d.*	*675*	*Sugar Industry of South Formosa, 1908*	1½*d.*
	Portugal:			**Persia:**	
4181	Goa, 1907	1*d.*	4179	Bushire, 1907-8	4*d.*
	Switzerland:			**WEST INDIES—**	
4178	Budget, 1909	1*d.*	4180	Cuba, 1907	1½*d.*

Government Publications.

Treaty Series.

The following numbers of the Treaty Series, issued by the Foreign Office since 1st January, 1909, may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.:—

No.	———	Price.
	Spain.	
3	Exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom and Spain, renewing for a further period of five years the Arbitration Agreement signed at London, 27th February, 1904 ...	½*d.*
	Italy.	
2	Exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom and Italy, renewing for a further period of five years the Arbitration Agreement signed at Rome, 1st February, 1904	½*d.*
	Turkey.	
1	Protocol between the United Kingdom, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and Turkey respecting Turkish Customs Duties	½*d.*
	Colombia.	
5	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Colombia providing for the Settlement by Arbitration of Certain Classes of Questions which may arise between the two Governments	½*d.*
4	Accession of the United Kingdom to the International Convention signed at Berne, 26th September, 1906, prohibiting the use of White (Yellow) Phosphorus in the Manufacture of Matches	1*d.*
6	International Agreement respecting the creation of an International Office of Public Health	1*d.*

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions, issued since 1st January, 1909, may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.:—

No.	Place.	Price.
	Annual—	
594	Northern Nigeria, 1907–8	11*d.*
595	Basutoland, 1907–8	3*d.*
	Miscellaneous—	
57	Uganda: Report by the Governor on a Tour through the Eastern Province	3½*d.*

Confidential Information.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade has for several years been in the habit of forwarding to Chambers of Commerce for the confidential use of their members, but not for publication, information (chiefly as to openings abroad for British trade) to which it has appeared desirable in the interests of British trade to draw attention confidentially. The plan met with general approval, and in order to attain more fully the purpose of the Board, namely, to reach all British manufacturers or traders interested, it was decided, on the recommendation of the Commercial Intelligence Committee, to supplement the above-mentioned system by opening at the Commercial Intelligence Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., a Register of British firms who might desire to receive confidential information relative to their respective trades. The Register was opened in January, 1907, and a considerable number of British firms have since applied and had their names entered. Other British firms desiring to have their names entered on this Register should fill up and forward to the Commercial Intelligence Branch a form of application, copies of which may be obtained at the offices of the Branch.

The admission to the Register, as well as the retention upon it, of any firm is at the discretion of the Board of Trade.

No charge is made for information supplied, but every firm admitted to the Register is required to become a subscriber to the "Board of Trade Journal" (and to register as such with the sale agents, Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.), in order to ensure that those who are desirous of receiving such confidential information should first be in possession of all the official information relating to their particular trade which is published in that Journal. The annual subscription to the Journal, including postage, is 15*s.* 2*d.*

The present scheme is provisional and experimental, and its continuance and future development will depend on the results of experience.

NOTE.—Apart from the special Register, the Branch is always ready to answer, as far as possible, enquiries on specific questions in the interest of British trade.

Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade (73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and classified in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies shall be given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters. On application being made to it either personally or by letter, the Branch supplies, so far as is possible, information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of Firms Abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender; Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c.

There is a Sample Room at the offices of the Branch, where, in addition to samples illustrative of reports of H.M. Consuls or of the Correspondents or Special Commissioners of the Board of Trade, specimens of special interest that may be received from India, the Colonies, &c., are exhibited from time to time.

The Governments of Canada and Queensland have established, in proximity to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, at 73, Basinghall Street, special offices for dealing with trade matters (see below).

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, and intended for general information, is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is issued weekly at the price of 3*d*. All applications respecting subscription, or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street. Copies may also be obtained from Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.

All communications intended for the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade should be addressed to: *The Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.*

Colonial Trade Enquiry Offices.

Canada.—The Canadian Government have opened an office at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., under the designation of "Canadian Government City Trade Branch." A Canadian representative attends daily to deal with enquiries and applications regarding Canadian import and export trade, and to supply information about Canadian matters generally. Personal appointments can be arranged when desired.

Australia.—The Commonwealth of Australia have offices at 72, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. Enquiries may be made there as to Customs requirements, the Commonwealth Tariff, marking and description of goods, trade marks, patents and designs. Letters should be addressed to "The Representative of the Commonwealth of Australia."

COLONIAL TRADE ENQUIRY OFFICES—*continued.*

New Zealand.—A Commercial Department is established at the Office of the High Commissioner, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W., where information respecting the agricultural, pastoral, mining and other resources of the Dominion, and particulars concerning trade and industries, tariff regulations and commercial statistics can be obtained. Permanent exhibits of New Zealand products are maintained for public inspection both at the Imperial Institute and the Crystal Palace.

Queensland.—The Agent-General for Queensland has opened a branch office at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., where a representative attends daily to give information to enquirers regarding trade, mining, and all other matters relating to Queensland. Specimens of products representative of the pastoral, agricultural, and mining industries of Queensland are on view.

Victoria.—The Government of Victoria (Australia) have an extensive and varied collection of products of the State on view at the Show Room of their London Offices (142, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.). Lists of the Exporters of the State, with their Agents in the United Kingdom, and full particulars relating to the trade, prospects, &c., of the State, can be obtained upon application to the Agent-General for Victoria, at the above address.

New South Wales.—With a view to facilitating the acquiring of information regarding the State's products, the New South Wales Government have a commercial branch attached to the Agent-General's Department at 123-125, Cannon Street, E.C. A great variety of specimens is on view—typical of the mineral, agricultural and other products of the country. Full information concerning the Colony is given gratis to all applicants.

South Australia.—The Government of South Australia have established a Produce Department at the offices of the Agent General, Threadneedle House, 28, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., where specimens of every description of South Australian produce are now displayed. This Department will supply, free of cost, full information regarding the exports from South Australia of all sorts of produce.

Cape of Good Hope.—The Government of the Cape of Good Hope have offices at 98, Victoria Street, S.W., for the purpose of a Commercial Agency, under the superintendence of the Trades Commissioner, who supplies free information on trade subjects connected with the Colony, such as agricultural products, industries, trade, tariff regulations, commercial statistics, railway rates, &c., &c.

Natal.—The Government of Natal have established a Commercial Agency for that Colony at 26, Victoria Street, S.W., under the direction of the Agent-General. The Commercial Agent will supply, gratis, information on trade and industrial subjects connected with the Colony, commercial statistics, tariffs, railway rates, shipping freights, &c. Specimens of certain descriptions of Natal produce are on view.

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THE Board of Trade Journal

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

MARCH 25, 1909.

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3 Box Compound and Insulating Oils and Tapes.
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5 Earthenware Troughing, Tiles, and Cable Supports.

The Council reserve to themselves the right to make a separate contract for the supply of materials included in any one section or number of sections, or in any part of a section.

Samples, general conditions, form of agreement, specification, and form of tender may be inspected at the Electricity Works, Millfields Road, Lower Clapton, N.E., and a copy of the general conditions, form of agreement, specification, and form of tender may be obtained on application to the undersigned by bona-fide manufacturers or manufacturers' agents upon receipt of a deposit of £1 per copy, which will be returned on receipt of a bona-fide tender.

Extra copies of the specification, &c., may be obtained by bona-fide tenderers at a charge of £1 per copy, which will not be returned.

Tenders, sealed and marked "Tender for Materials for the Extension of the Distributing System," must be delivered personally or by an authorised representative, to the Chairman at a meeting of the Borough Council to be held at the Town Hall, Mare Street, Hackney, on Thursday, the 6th day of May, 1909, at 7 p.m. Tenders sent otherwise will not be considered.

The general conditions of the proposed contract will contain a clause providing that the contractor shall pay to all workmen wages at rates not less and observe hours of labour not more than those recognised by the various Unions and in practice obtained in the district where the work is produced or executed.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

W. A. WILLIAMS,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,
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10th March, 1909.

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Tenders (on the Forms supplied only) to be sent in to me not later than noon on Thursday, the 8th April next, endorsed "Tender for Fencing."

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,

T. W. SCOTT,
Clerk to the Council.

Public Offices,
Enfield, Middlesex,
12th March, 1909.

Borough of Sandwich.

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ALF. J. FIRBY,
Borough Surveyor.

Borough Surveyor's Office,
12th March, 1909.

Erdington Urban District Council.

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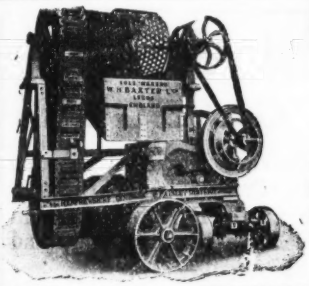

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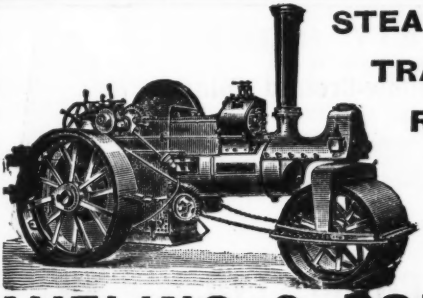

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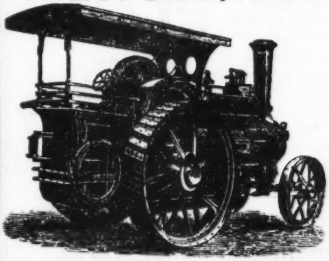

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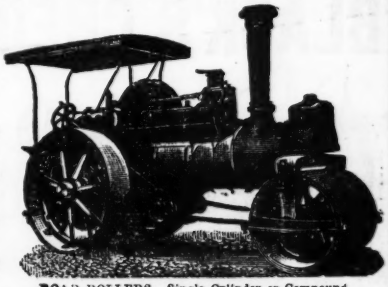

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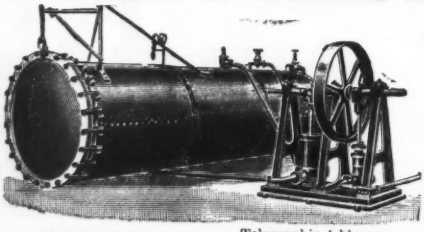

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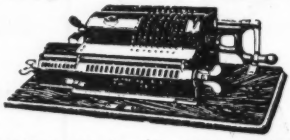

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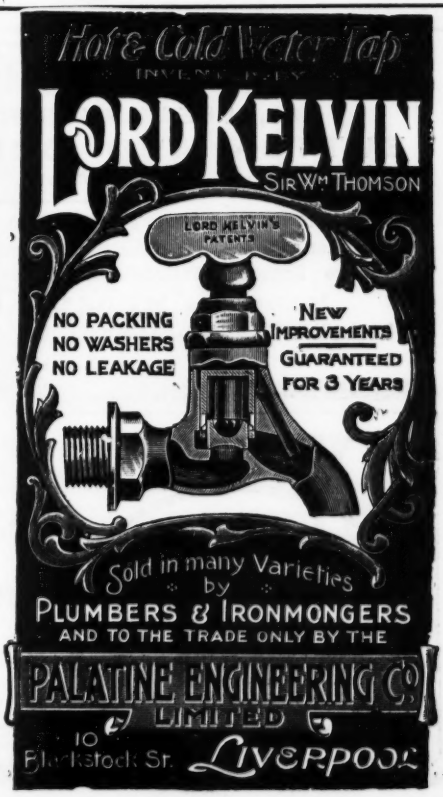

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